



**ANTON AND EMMY BERGMAN RECEIVE HONOR FROM ATA**  
Page 13



**STOCKS PLUNGE AS OIL DIP CONTINUES TO HIT INVESTORS**  
Page 24

# *Aruba* TODAY

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## Ringling Endorsement

### Obama Urges Senate to Pass Spending Bill

Page 4

President Barack Obama pauses while speaking Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. Obama on Friday urged the Senate to ratify a \$1.1 trillion spending bill that has roiled his Democratic Party, judging it an imperfect measure that stems from "the divided government that the American people voted for."

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



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# London rattled by air traffic control computer failure

**DANICA KIRKA**  
**GREGORY KATZ**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The British government has demanded an investigation after a computer failure Friday at one of Britain's two air traffic control centers caused a major disruption of air traffic into and out of London.

The congested airspace over the British capital was closed during the 35-minute shutdown, leading to severe delays and flight cancellations in London and other parts of Europe that officials said would spill over into Saturday.

The problem was traced to the computer system at NATS, the troubled U.K.-based air traffic management company, which has experienced a number of operational problems related to computer issues.

British officials seethed over the system meltdown on a busy Friday afternoon during the run-up to the holiday season, when travel demand is particularly high.

"Disruption on this scale is simply unacceptable and I have asked NATS for a full explanation of this evening's incident," Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said.

NATS said a computer problem at its center in Swanwick, England, had touched off troubles in the system. After it was fixed, NATS said its operations



**Passengers wait at Heathrow Airport in London, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014. London's airspace was closed today due to what authorities say was a computer failure at one of Britain's two air traffic control centers.**

were returning to normal but would not say how long that would take. It said "further information" about the cause would be released when it becomes available.

Problems were particularly acute at London's Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest. Some 66 flights were cancelled there as of 6 p.m. (1 p.m. EST), with more expected, since planes and flight crews were out of position.

British aviation authorities did not ask the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to hold flights destined for Heathrow on the ground during the shutdown, so there was no impact on departures from the U.S.,

said FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown.

Planes headed for the U.S., however, were held on the ground, unable to take off safely.

Heathrow officials urged passengers to check the status of their flights before leaving for the airport. Airlines issued the same cautionary advice.

The NATS center at Swanwick has been plagued by problems since it opened in 2002 — six years late and at twice its anticipated cost. Software and reliability issues have caused repeated disruptions since.

A few months after it opened, the BBC cited an unidentified air traffic controller as complaining of

"potentially catastrophic" problems at the facility, including erratic radio transmissions. Other controllers cited by the broadcaster said the text on their computer screens was "too tiny to read."

In 2004, Swanwick was in the news when a computer problem grounded scores of flights across Britain. An even more serious glitch in September 2008 grounded hundreds of flights and affected tens of thousands of travelers.

In December 2013, another computer problem at Swanwick took 12 hours to fix, causing severe delays at the outset of the holiday season.

At the time, NATS chief

Richard Deakin called the failure a "one-in-10-year event."

The malfunction Friday was repaired much more quickly, but it still led to significant delays felt throughout Europe and delayed flights bound for the United States.

The substantial problems triggered by the relatively brief malfunction illustrate how vulnerable the modern air traffic control system is to any type of breakdown.

John Potter, an expert with the Strategy& professional services company, said: "The grounding of hundreds of scheduled flights because of a technical problem at Swanwick highlights how reliant the airline industry has become on technologies which can and do fail."

Martyn Thomas, a visiting professor of software engineering at the University of Oxford who had examined NATS computer failures in the early 2000s, said the systems in place are not up to date.

"Some of NATS' computer systems are very old — the National Airspace System (NAS) that performs flight data processing is software that dates from the 1960s," he said in a statement. "Interfacing new systems to this old software can create difficulties."

Thomas said NATS has an outstanding safety record but once controllers lost their computer-based tools, delays were inevitable "because without the tools, the controllers cannot handle as many simultaneous aircraft."

The shutdown, which began at about 3:27 p.m. and ended at 4:03 p.m., affected London's five commercial airports: Heathrow, Gatwick, City, Stansted, and Luton.

Heathrow alone handles about 1,200 to 1,400 flights a day, some 200 of those to and from the United States, according to the flight tracking service FlightAware, which said Friday's problem most directly affected departures from London.

## Peru:

# UN climate talks seem headed for overtime

**KARL RITTER**  
**Associated Press**

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — U.N. global warming talks seemed set to spill over into the weekend as negotiators bickered Friday over the content of climate action plans that countries should unveil in the run-up to a key summit in Paris next year.

The yearly U.N. climate meetings rarely close on time and the two-week session in Lima was no exception as disputes that arose in the opening days remained unresolved by



**Activists perform as heads of state during the Climate Change Conference COP20 in Lima Peru, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014. The boat's sign reads in Spanish "Leave behind emissions. Climatic agreement." Delegates from more than 190 countries are meeting in Lima to work on drafts for a global climate deal that is supposed to be adopted next year in Paris.**

(AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

Friday's scheduled close of the conference.

"This will not be over today," Chinese delegate Zhang Jiutian said. "There are still some points in the agenda that need more discussion."

One of the most problematic issues in Lima was getting the more than 190 countries participating to agree on what information should go into the pledges that governments are supposed to put on the table for a global climate pact expected to be adopted a year from now in Paris.

# Federal judge puts limits on police tactics in US state

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — A federal judge has imposed some limits on what actions police can take during protests in Missouri, where a

other chemical agents. Michael Brown's Aug. 9 shooting death at the hands of Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson led to weeks of protests and some looting in the St. Lou-

that they were subjected to tear gas with virtually no warning.

Jackson's order requires police to warn crowds of the impending use of tear gas, pepper spray and

any warning that chemical agents would be deployed and, hence, no opportunity to avoid injury."

Her order also prohibits use of chemical agents on

St. Louis City Counselor Winston Calvert said the ruling has little impact because it is consistent with existing policy of the city's police force. He called it a "common-sense order



From Left, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and US Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, Zachary T. Fardon, participate in a 'Building Community Trust' roundtable discussion with police and community leaders Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in Chicago. Holder says the nation is facing "critical times" when it comes to the lack of trust that exists between some communities and law enforcement, and that the solution is confronting the issue and both sides need to understand each other. The meeting is part of an effort launched by President Barack Obama after clashes between protesters and police in Ferguson, Missouri. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

grand jury declined to charge a white policeman in the shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old. U.S. District Judge Carol Jackson late Thursday granted a temporary restraining order on behalf of demonstrators, ruling that officers must give demonstrators a reasonable chance to disperse before deploying tear gas and

is area.

The ruling stems from a lawsuit filed by six protesters against leaders of the "unified command" established by Gov. Jay Nixon in August to handle security at those protests. Police testified Thursday that they did what was necessary during the often unruly demonstrations. But protesters told the judge

other chemical agents and provide "reasonable" time for people to disperse before tear gas is deployed. The ruling does not define what is reasonable, leaving that to police discretion.

Jackson wrote that evidence "establishes that law enforcement officials failed to give the plaintiffs and other protesters

"non-criminal" protesters "for the purpose of frightening them or punishing them for exercising their constitutional rights."

Jackson set a preliminary injunction hearing for Jan. 6 to consider whether to make the temporary order longer-term.

Thomas Harvey, an attorney for the protesters, called it a "great ruling."

that will allow the St. Louis Police Department to continue to protect protesters' constitutional rights, keep people safe and protect people's homes and businesses."

Messages seeking comment from attorneys and representatives for the Highway Patrol and St. Louis County police were not immediately returned. □

## NYC police probe moving swiftly in chokehold case

TOM HAYS

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A closed-door viewing this week of an amateur video that captured an arrest gone wrong marked the start of the New York Police Department's internal affairs probe to determine whether a white police officer and several others will be disciplined in July's chokehold death of a black man accused of selling untaxed cigarettes.

The internal inquiry was on hold pending the outcome of a grand jury investigation

into whether Officer Daniel Pantaleo should face criminal charges in the death of Eric Garner.

Two days after the grand jury decided not to indict Pantaleo, police investigators started their work. Except for Pantaleo, any officer who testified in the grand jury was given immunity from criminal prosecution. The decision not to indict the officer sparked protests nationwide, coming on the heels of another grand jury decision not to indict the white police officer who shot and killed unarmed black 18-year-old

Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The NYPD investigation could result in departmental charges such as excessive force or abuse of authority. Such charges could bring public trials, and if the officers are found guilty, they face a range of potential penalties — from reprimands and loss of vacation days to forced retirement or dismissal.

Police Commissioner William Bratton has said the NYPD investigation could be concluded within a few months — well ahead of any decision by federal prosecutors on whether

to bring a civil rights case. And he has made clear he has the last word on any officer discipline.

Supporters of Garner's family and others have questioned whether due process — both for the family and the officers — is possible in a case that has ignited nationwide tensions and accusations by NYPD officers and union officials that Pantaleo is being railroaded.

The video shot by a bystander shows Pantaleo and his partner, Justin D'Amico, in plain clothes trying to arrest Garner. Af-

ter the 350-pound (158-kilogram) Garner refuses to be handcuffed, Pantaleo wraps his arm around Garner's neck and starts to pull him down as others pile on and force him to the ground.

At least six other officers appear on tape amid the ruckus, including Sgt. Dhanan Saminath, the supervising officer. Also shown are another sergeant, two patrolmen in uniform and two other officers. At least one officer is black. Some play active roles in the take-down, others direct foot traffic and stand by. □



# Obama urges Senate to pass spending bill

**ANDREW TAYLOR**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama on Friday urged the Senate to ratify a \$1.1 trillion spending bill that has roiled his Democratic Party, judging it an imperfect measure that stems from “the divided government that the American people voted for.”

One day after House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi publicly chastised him for supporting the bill, the president said there were provisions “I really do not like.”

“At the same time, he said there were other portions that “fund health insurance, early childhood education, the fight against

climate change and expand manufacturing hubs to grow jobs.”

He offered his assessment as Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid also announced support for the legislation, further underscoring the split inside the party.

The Democrats will lose control of the Senate in January because of heavy losses in midterm elections last month and will go deeper into a House minority than at any time since 1928.

With lawmakers eager to wrap up work for the year, there was little doubt the huge spending measure would clear the Senate within a day or two. To give the Senate time to



**Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas talks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, as the Senate considers a spending bill. The House has passed an additional stopgap spending to make certain the government doesn't shut down at midnight Saturday when current funding authority runs out. The move would give the Senate additional time to process a \$1.1 trillion government-wide spending bill.**

(AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke)

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complete action, Obama signed a 48-hour law overnight to keep the government funded and prevent a shutdown that both parties have pledged to avoid. Nor was there much if any controversy over the spending levels in the spending measure, which provides funding to keep nearly the entire government operating through the Sept. 30 end of the current budget year.

The sole exception is the Department of Homeland Security, which is funded only until Feb. 27. Republicans intend to try then to force the president to roll back a new immigration policy that removes the threat of deportation from millions of immigrants living in the country illegally.

“That battle begins in just four weeks when we get the reinforcements of a Republican Senate in January,” Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the House Republican whip, said late Thursday night after the

legislation cleared the House.

An unrelated portion of the bill changes the rules for severely distressed multi-employer pension funds, opening the way to possible cuts in benefits for future retirees.

But much of the controversy surrounding the bill concerned a variety of provisions relating to financial regulation, the environment, campaign financing rules and more.

Pelosi and other Democrats objected most vociferously to a pair of them. One raises the amount of money that wealthy donors may contribute to political parties for national conventions, election recounts and headquarters buildings.

Generating far more unhappiness among Democrats was a section that eliminates a new regulation that was imposed on the nation's banks in the wake of the 2008 near-meltdown of the economy. □

# Police: 3 conscious after shooting outside school

STEVEN DUBOIS

Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — A shooter wounded two boys and a girl outside a U.S. high school Friday in what is believed to be a gang-related attack, police said.

The victims are believed to be students at Rosemary Anderson High School in the northwestern city of Portland, Sgt. Pete Simpson said. The three were conscious and breathing when they were taken to the hospital, he said. The shooting was reported after noon and happened at a corner outside the school, Simpson said. The assailant fled, and the students ran back to the school for help, he said.

Officers don't know whether the shooter was alone or with others, but Simpson says preliminary information suggests it's gang-related.

Rosemary Anderson High School is an alternative school that serves at-risk students who were expelled or dropped out, are homeless or single parents. According to the school's website, 190 students annually are enrolled there.

Parents have been summoned to the school, and a nearby high school and community college were put on lockdown.

Portland has been troubled by gang-related violence for years and has seen a spike this year.

At midyear, the Police Bureau reported that officers had responded to 52 gang-related violent crimes, up from 35 through the same period last year, The Oregonian reported.

Some of the violence occurs between rival gangs, but bystanders have also been hurt.

Two men died in separate gang-related shootings earlier this year, including one outside a strip club.

In another shooting in June, at least nine gunshots were fired into an apartment complex, and a 5-year-old boy who was visiting his grandfather was wounded in the leg.

Portland police have been calling for more resources to deal with the gang problem. The Portland area was the scene of a school shooting in June. Jared Padgett, 15,



Police guide students from Rosemary Anderson High School following a shooting at the school, in Portland, Ore., Friday Dec., 12, 2014. A shooter wounded two boys and a girl outside the U.S. high school Friday in what is believed to be a gang-related attack, police said.

(AP Photo/Greg Wahl-Stephens)

opened fire June 10 after arriving at his high school east of Portland heavily armed. He killed 14-year-old Emilio

Hoffman in the boy's locker room and another bullet grazed a physical education teacher. When con-

fronted by officers, Padgett went into a bathroom and died from a self-inflicted gunshot, police said. □

## FBI probes teen hanging death

MARTHA WAGGONER

Associated Press

**BLADENBORO, North Carolina (AP)** — The FBI is reviewing the investigation into the death of a black North Carolina teenager found hanging from a swing set

after relatives raised doubts about the official finding that he committed suicide, a conclusion that the county coroner questions now. A caller to emergency dispatch reported spotting the 17-year-old Lennon Lacy's body in a trailer park Aug. 29 in the small town of Bladenboro. He was hanging by a dog leash and a belt that his family says did not belong to him, his feet suspended 2 inches (5 centimeters) off the ground.

The state medical examiner ruled that the boy killed himself, but his mother said she does not believe it. "When I saw him, I just knew automatically he didn't do that to himself," Claudia Lacy told The Associated

Press in a recent interview. "If he was going to harm himself, his demeanor would have changed. His whole routine, everything, his attitude, everything would have changed."

She last saw the youngest of her four sons alive as the middle linebacker prepared for a high school football game by putting together his uniform in the early hours of Aug. 29.

His father told him that he needed to get some sleep before the game, his first after his mother made him take a year off from the team to focus on his grades. "OK, Daddy," he said. They then heard a door close, which was not unusual, Claudia Lacy said, because her son liked to run at night when the air was cool. About 13 hours later, she identified her son's body in the back of an ambulance. The swing set was in clear sight of about 10 trailers. □

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# Southern California mudflows trigger evacuations

**JOHN ANTCHAK**  
**JUSTIN PRITCHARD**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A soaking storm swept into Southern California, triggering several mudslides, flooding streets and cutting power to tens of thousands Friday after lashing the rest of the state with much-needed rain.

The deluge from the storm's intense, early-morning arrival caused part of a hillside about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles to give way. Debris brushed aside concrete barriers crews had set up on the slope and surrounded about a dozen homes with silt, sticks and rocks as large as a couch. In several backyards, the muck was piled up to the roofline.

The force was so great that two large earthmovers used to set up barriers were swept down to the street, with one nearly buried.

Damage in Southern California mainly was minor, and there were no reported deaths tied to the storm.

Los Angeles Fire Department



**Scott Taylor of Windsor Public Works opens a manhole to help drainage along Old Redwood Highway in Windsor, Calif. during flooding Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014. A powerful storm churned down the West Coast Thursday, bringing strong gales and much-needed rain and snow.**  
 (AP Photo/Santa Rosa Press Democrat, Kent Porter)

ment personnel rescued two people from the storm-swollen Los Angeles River. Fire officials pulled

a body from a concrete flood channel, though the cause of death wasn't clear. While the rain was

welcome, experts say California needs many more such storms to pull out of a drought lasting three years.

Of immediate concern were hillsides, which loom over some neighborhoods. Though the fast-moving storm was projected to clear out east and reach Nevada and Arizona later in the day, the risk remained that sodden topsoil no longer held in place by roots could give way.

In Camarillo, mandatory evacuations were ordered for 124 homes, and some people needed help leaving because of property damage, Ventura County sheriff's Capt. Don Aguilar said. Forty people came to an evacuation center, and two went to the hospital with minor medical issues, Red Cross spokesman Tom Horan said.

Utility crews were restoring electricity to the 50,000 customers who lost it in areas served by Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The storm system has been blamed for two deaths in Oregon, thousands of power outages in Washington and flooded roadways in the San Francisco Bay Area. □



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## Tribes wary of selling pot, even legally

**JEFF BARNARD**  
**GOSIA WOZNIACKA**  
**Associated Press**

**GRANTS PASS, Oregon (AP)** — Many in Indian Country are wary of the idea of growing and selling marijuana on tribal lands, even if it could present an economic windfall and the U.S. Department of Justice says it's OK. The U.S. Justice Department announced Thursday that it has adopted a new policy saying Indian tribes, which are considered sovereign nations, can grow and sell marijuana on tribal lands as long as they follow the same federal conditions laid out for states that have legalized the drug.

"I would really doubt tribes would be wanting to do something like that," said Don Gentry, chairman of the Klamath Tribes in Oregon, where voters this year approved a measure to

legalize recreational pot. "We have an alcohol- and drug-free policy at work. It would just not be something we would be looking for into the future."

Oregon U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall said the policy addresses questions raised by tribes about how legalization of pot in states like Oregon, Washington and Colorado would apply to Indian lands.

"That's been the primary message tribes are getting to us as U.S. attorneys," Marshall said from Portland. "What will the U.S. as federal partners do to assist tribes in protecting our children and families, our tribal businesses, our tribal housing? How will you help us combat marijuana abuse in Indian Country when states are no longer there to partner with us?" Whether tribal pot could become a major bonanza rivaling tribal casinos is a

big question. Marshall said only three tribes — one each in California, Washington state and the Midwest — have voiced any interest. She did not identify them.

Seattle attorney Anthony Broadman, whose firm represents tribal governments throughout the West, said the economic potential is vast.

"If tribes can balance all the potential social issues, it could be a really huge opportunity," Broadman said.

He said tribes would enjoy a huge advantage selling pot, as they do with tobacco, because they would not have to charge taxes.

Alison Holcomb, a primary drafter of Washington state's legalization measure, said most people in larger states won't want to drive to far-flung reservations to buy pot. □



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## US Financial Front:

# Like low gas prices? So does the station owner



Chanel Acosta, of Hialeah, Fla., pumps gas into her car at a RaceTrac gasoline station in Hialeah. Motorists are now seeing prices under \$3 a gallon for the first time in four years, which also means that gas stations are paying less for the fuel, too.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

**JONATHAN FAHEY**  
AP Energy Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — So you think you are finally getting one over on the gas stations as you pay well under \$3 a gallon for the first time in four years? Guess again. Gas stations love low prices too — and not just because customers are nicer when they are paying less. “We’re in the same shoes as the consumer, the cost of fuel is less for us,” says Kevin Beyer, who owns Performance Fuels, a filling station and convenience store in Smithtown, NY. That means profits for Beyer and the nation’s 127,000 filling stations are rising. Before they sell gas to you, station owners buy gas on the wholesale market. When the wholesale price of gasoline falls quickly the difference between the cost of wholesale gasoline (including taxes) and the price at the pump gets

wider, boosting profits for stations. The steeper the drop, the better.

“It’s completely antithetical to what people believe,” says Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service.

That difference has stretched to 21.7 cents per gallon this year, the highest ever, according to an OPIS analysis of 16,000 U.S. stations. That compares to an average of 17.1 cents over the last five years. On a percentage basis, station profitability is at its highest since 2005. And profits on diesel sales are even higher. “They are off the charts,” Kloza says.

Yes, that means you could be paying even less for gasoline than you are. But before you cry foul, you should know that after all the ups and downs in a year, gas stations do not make much money from selling gasoline. After credit

card fees and other operating costs, net profit for gasoline sales averages 3 cents a gallon, according to the National Association of Convenience Stores.

When gas prices soar, and drivers think they’re being gouged, stations are barely scraping by or even losing money. When the wholesale price is soaring, like it did in 2008, 2011 and 2012, station owners can’t increase the price at the pump as fast as their costs are going up or they risk losing customers to competitors.

When the wholesale price is going down, like now, there isn’t the same pressure to lower the price.

Drivers are so happy to see

lower prices they don’t search all over town for the lowest one. And then when they put gas in the tank, they fill ‘er up instead of just putting in a few dollars’ worth.

And drivers have some money left over to spend on what’s really profitable for station owners: The drinks and snacks inside.

“As the pricing goes down, I don’t see people shopping (for the cheapest price) as much as they do when it’s going up,” says Beyer. “They are still feeling a relief at the pump.”

As a result, he adds, “People are more friendly.”

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 78 days in a row to \$2.60 a gal-

lon. That’s 65 cents less than last year at this time and \$1.10 below its peak for this year of \$3.70, reached in April.

Gas has fallen because the global price of crude oil has dropped 45 percent since this summer. The U.S., Canada and other countries are producing more oil at time when world demand is weak because of sluggish economic growth. This has drained profits and knocked down the share prices of oil producers — the exploration and production divisions of the big oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron, and companies such as ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil. □

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**Poll:**

# New Yorkers uneasy about city's path under Mayor de Blasio

**MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM**  
**MARJORIE CONNELLY**  
 © 2014 New York Times

**NEW YORK** - Mayor Bill de Blasio rose to power promising a new era of cultural comity in New York City, generating big expectations that he could heal longstanding urban divisions over ethnicity, money and class.

But amid a national uproar over police and race, prompted in part by the death of an unarmed black man, Eric Garner, on Staten Island, New Yorkers now think race relations in their city are deeply strained. More than half of residents - blacks and whites alike - say the city is headed in the wrong direction, according to a poll by The New York Times and Siena College.

That unease is an unexpected turn for de Blasio, a liberal Democrat who has staked his mayoralty on remaking the way New Yorkers interact with law enforcement. But the poll's findings suggest the mayor's efforts have been buffeted, and at times over-

taken, by events outside of his control.

The survey, conducted this month in the days after a grand jury declined to issue criminal charges in the Garner case, found that two-thirds of New Yorkers disagreed with the decision and believed the white police officer who placed Garner in a chokehold shortly before his death should have been indicted.

Strikingly, de Blasio's attempts to curb the aggressive policing tactics favored by his predecessor, Michael R. Bloomberg, received little credit. Three out of 5 New Yorkers said the mayor had made little difference in improving police and community relations, and 1 in 5 said he had made the dynamic worse.

Nearly half - 48 percent - of respondents said race relations in the city were bad in general, up from 30 percent at the end of Bloomberg's tenure.

Residents found de Blasio to be calming if somewhat ineffective in his response



**New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio speaks at a church in Staten Island after meeting with the parents of Eric Garner following a grand jury's decision to not file criminal charges in the death of their son, in New York. Concerns about race relations have risen, a New York Times/Siena College survey found, and over half of the residents, whites and blacks alike, think the city is off course.**  
 (Richard Perry/The New York Times)

to the grand jury's decision in the Garner case.

He tried to please protesters as well as the police in the wake of the Garner case. But only 28 percent of respondents said his middle-ground approach improved the situation;

37 percent said it made things worse. Still, residents gave de Blasio higher marks than former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani received after the fatal shooting by the police of Amadou Diallo in 1999, when he was widely seen as exacerbating tensions.

De Blasio's overall approval rating is at 52 percent, within the margin of sampling error from the 49 percent he received in the spring.

In a noticeable shift from the last administration, when Bloomberg received comparable approval ratings from blacks and whites, de Blasio faces a noticeable race gap - and it is growing. Seventy percent of black people say they approve of his job performance now; only 32 percent of white people agree. In April, 59 percent of blacks approved, and 38 percent of whites also approved.

Asked how much the mayor cares about their problems, 41 percent of blacks answered "a lot"; only 17 percent of whites said the same.

"It seems he's more in tune with the people - and when I say 'the people,' I mean specifically black people," Ben Robinson, 56, a retired construction

worker in Brooklyn, who is African-American, said in a follow-up interview after the poll was conducted. "We might stand a better chance with him than with anybody else."

In fact, New Yorkers are deeply divided by race on a variety of matters, from the performance of the Police Department (67 percent of whites are positive, 76 percent of blacks are negative) to opinions on the first lady, Chirlane McCray (nearly twice as many blacks approve of her as whites).

One thing whites and blacks do agree on, however, is that the city is on the wrong track: 52 percent of New Yorkers agree with that statement, the highest since 2011 and up sharply from 42 percent a year ago.

New Yorkers are also now evenly divided on whether the mayor shares their priorities - a change from April, when 58 percent said the mayor was focused on issues important to them, and 37 percent said he was not.

A clear majority also said minorities in New York are not treated fairly by the city's criminal justice system, and most think police officers are treated too leniently.




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# Kerry aims to avert brewing UN crisis on Mideast

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— The United States is looking to avert a brewing year-end clash at the U.N. Security Council as it grapples with proposals to recognize Palestine as a state — over Israel's objections.

A series of meetings set for U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry next week in Europe aims to unite different countries that, currently, are pushing conflicting proposals for a two-state solution to generations of war and tensions between Israel and Palestinians. Several nations, including Jordan and France, have proposed Security Council resolutions that they would like to see adopted before the end of the year.

"We're trying to figure out a way to help defuse the tensions and reduce the potential for more conflict," Kerry told reporters

Friday in Bogota, where he met with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos. "We're exploring various possibilities to that end."

"There are a lot of different folks pushing in different directions out there and the question is: 'Can we all pull in the same direction,' " Kerry said.

Israel has long objected to U.N. endorsement of a Palestinian state without first sealing a peace treaty between the two sides. Kerry sought to broker a peace deal between Israel and Palestinian authorities but fell short in April after nearly nine months of tense negotiations.

The push for Security Council action follows the failure of those talks, in addition to this summer's 50-day war between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian faction that controls the Gaza Strip, and the recent upsurge in violence sparked by disputes over Jerusalem's hilltop com-



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, left, and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reach out to shake hands after giving a joint statement at the presidential palace in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014. Kerry said the U.S. supports Colombia's peace talks with the rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

plex that is revered by both Muslims and Jews.

U.S. officials say they aren't opposed to a new Security Council resolution, but that none of the drafts that have been offered so far are accept-

able. Kerry will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Rome on Monday, and later with European foreign ministers. He also spoke Friday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in what

a U.S. official described as a conversation focused on the Middle East, including recent developments in Israel, the West Bank, Jerusalem and the region, and the potential U.N. action. □

## Pope declining to meet Dalai Lama, reports say

ALAN COWELL

© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - A gathering of Nobel Peace Prize laureates opened in Rome on Friday, overshadowed by a dispute with the Vatican over reports that Pope Francis had refused to grant an audience to the Dalai Lama, the 1989 laureate, for fear of offending China.

The pope's action, reported by news agencies and by the Dalai Lama's followers, seemed to represent a further success for China in its efforts to isolate the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, who is regarded as one of Beijing's principal political nemeses.

The laureates' gathering was initially set to take place in Cape Town, South Africa, in October, but the government of President Jacob G. Zuma, which has close economic ties with China, refused to grant the 79-year-old Dalai Lama a visa.

The action provoked a boycott by other Nobel laureates. Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, the South African winner of the 1984 prize for his battle against apartheid, responded to Zuma's action by saying he was "ashamed to call this lickspittle bunch my government."

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, was quoted in news reports Thursday as saying that "Pope Francis obviously holds the Dalai Lama in very high regard, but he will not be meeting any of the Nobel laureates."

But, the spokesman said, the pope would send a video message to the conference.

The Dalai Lama was quoted by the Italian news agency ANSA as saying Thursday that he had been turned down for an audience "because it might create inconveniences."

Francis, like his predecessor Benedict XVI, is seeking

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## Twitter backer of IS identified as an Indian executive

**BEN HUBBARD**

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**BEIRUT** - As the extremists of the Islamic State rampaged across Syria and Iraq, the Twitter user @shamiwitness was among the group's most prolific and widely followed English-language supporters. In a near-constant barrage of posts, he cheered the group's ad-

vances, disparaged its enemies and called on Muslims from around the world to heed the call of jihad. When the Twitter mask fell, it revealed an identity behind the account that few had expected. According to a report broadcast Thursday by Britain's Channel 4 News, the man behind @shamiwitness is not an armed

fighter, but a clean-shaven Indian marketing executive named Mehdi who lives and works in the city of Bangalore.

The rise and fall of @shamiwitness, whose Twitter account has since been deleted, illuminates the role of volunteer sympathizers in the global spread of the Islamic State's message.

The Islamic State, also known as ISIS, dedicates significant resources to its social media campaign, regularly releasing photo reports, audio messages and professional-quality videos glorifying the group's activities. But equally important, analysts say, is the informal network of supporters who may have no official link to

the group but magnify its reach.

Channel 4 said it had found the man behind the @shamiwitness account by first finding the name of a former Twitter account he had run, and then using that name to search other social media sites until it found a Facebook page belonging to a man named Mehdi. □

## Officials: Palestinian man sprays Israeli family with acid

**ISABEL KERSHNER**

© 2014 New York Times

**JERUSALEM** - A Palestinian man sprayed acid on six members of an Israeli family in a car and an Israeli hitchhiker in the West Bank on Friday, wounding them lightly to moderately, according to the Israeli military. The assailant, who was also wielding a screwdriver, was then shot and wounded by an Israeli passer-by, the military said. The events took place on a main road near the Palestinian town of Husan in the Etzion settlement bloc south of Jerusalem, where the family had stopped to give the hitchhiker a ride. The military initially said the Palestinian had been trying to get a ride with the family, but later updated its account to say he was



**An armed ultra-Orthodox Jew walks at the scene of an acid attack near the settlement of Gush Etzion in the West Bank, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014. A Palestinian attacker posing as a hitchhiker threw acid at an Israeli family on Friday before he was shot by a passer-by and arrested, the Israeli military said.**

just standing next to the Israeli hitchhiker. It was the latest in a wave

of attacks carried out by lone Palestinians, though the first to involve acid.

Eleven people have been killed in recent weeks by Palestinians using vehicles,

knives, meat cleavers and guns. Israeli-Palestinian tensions have been running high against the background of a dispute over a revered holy site in Jerusalem and over the death this week of a senior Palestinian official after an altercation with Israeli security forces at a West Bank demonstration, during which he was shoved, grabbed by the throat and struck in the chest, according to witnesses. Israeli pathologists said that the official, Ziad Abu Ein, 55, died after a heart attack most likely brought on by stress, and that he had heart disease. But Palestinian officials have blamed the death on rough treatment at the hands of the Israeli security forces and hold Israel accountable. □

## Indonesian who published anti-IS cartoon summoned

**THOMAS FULLER**

© 2014 New York Times

**BANGKOK** - The chief editor of a prominent Indonesian newspaper, the English-language Jakarta Post, has been summoned for questioning by the police for publishing a cartoon that depicted radical Islamists in Syria. The editor, Meidyatama Suryodiningrat, is being treated as a suspect under a blasphemy law, accord-

ing to a police spokesman quoted in the Indonesian news media Friday. The cartoon, which ran in the daily newspaper in July, showed militants raising a black flag emblazoned with a skull and crossbones and Arabic phrases, including "There is none worthy of worship except Allah." In the background was a white pickup truck and what appeared to be the imminent execu-

tion of a row of blindfolded people on their knees. It was drawn by Stephane Peray, a French cartoonist based in Bangkok who syndicates his work. "Don't want to talk about it," Peray said by email. Meidyatama was quoted in The Post on Friday as saying he was "amazed" at the suggestion of blasphemy because the cartoon was meant to criticize deviant Islam. "What we

produced was a journalistic piece that criticized the ISIS movement, which has carried out violence in the name of religion," he was quoted as saying, referring to the Islamic State. Conservative Islamic groups protested when the cartoon was published, contending that it "strengthens the stigma that Islam represents senseless murderers," according to Haris Amir Falah, one

protest leader. The newspaper issued an apology and a retraction. It is unclear why the case, which staff members at the newspaper said they assumed had been dropped, is now being pursued. Sidney Jones, an expert on political Islam in Indonesia, said the case appeared to reflect the anger of hard-line groups toward a leading moderate voice in the country. □



## Oil and the Islamic State:

# Higher prices, shortages create pressure for militants

**SAMEER YACIOUB**

**VIVIAN SALAMA**

**Associated Press**

**BAGHDAD (AP)**

— Saadi Abdul-Rahman was recently forced to pull his three children out of school in the Iraqi city of Mosul, where Islamic State militants have ruled with an iron fist since June. The cost of living has soared there, and the family is barely able to make ends meet, even after putting the kids to work.

"We are not able to pay for cooking gas, kerosene and food," the 56-year old retired government worker says. "The situation in Mosul is miserable."

The economy in the self-styled "caliphate" declared by the Islamic State group bridging Iraq and Syria is starting to show signs of strain. Prices of most staples have more than doubled as coalition airstrikes and ground operations make it difficult for products to move in and out of militant strongholds, leading to shortages, price-gouging and the creation of black markets.

Resentment has grown among residents under the rule of the extremists, who initially won support with their ability to deliver services. In the early days of its rule, the Islamic State group subsidized food and gas prices through the wealth it accumulated from oil smuggling, extortion and ransom demands. They sold their smuggled oil at a discount— \$25 to \$60 for a barrel for oil that normally sold for more than \$100, according to analysts and government officials. But in recent weeks, prices have soared in militant-held cities. Items like kerosene, used for heating and

cooking, are in short supply, while others, such as alcohol and cigarettes, strictly banned by the group, are making a comeback at higher prices on the black market.

Smoking is a punishable of-

East economies at the National Defense University in Washington. "Eventually the costs of keeping the subsidies and price controls going will overpower their smuggling funds, which are also used for offensive and

to access the city from Turkey, residents said, allowing for a steady supply of fruit and vegetables, wheat and textiles. However, the cost of living has surged since U.S.-led airstrikes began in Syria in September,

the militants' own currency — the Islamic dinar — to "change the tyrannical monetary system" modelled on Western economies. However, trade in most militant-held cities continues to be in Iraqi dinars and U.S. dollars.

The start of winter has led to serious shortages of gasoline and kerosene in Iraq's militant-held territories. The official price for a liter of gas in government-controlled areas is 450 dinars (40 cents)— but in Mosul, it sells for four times that, or 1,700 dinars. Two hundred-liter barrels of kerosene are now sold in Mosul for 250,000 dinars (\$220), versus the official price of 30,000 dinars.

In the western Iraqi city of Fallujah, under militant control for almost a year, residents have started cutting trees for firewood because kerosene is in such short supply. The city is surrounded by government troops and near-daily shelling often make parts of town too dangerous to visit. Food and fuel prices have risen sharply as a result — a 50-kilo sack of rice costs 75,000 dinars (\$65), up from 10,000 (\$9) about three months ago. A cylinder of cooking gas goes for 140,000 dinars (\$115).

A number of factors are driving the shortages and price hikes, according to residents in Mosul and Fallujah, the group's biggest Iraqi strongholds. The militants have imposed a tax on trucks and other vehicles entering their territory, which has led to a decline in business. Deliveries are also subject to militant theft, and coalition airstrikes and military operations make many roads impassable. □



**People shop at a market in the northern city of Mosul, Iraq. It's becoming more expensive to live in the self-styled caliphate envisioned by the Islamic State group as militant-held cities grow increasingly isolated, impeding access to basic goods and services. Coalition airstrikes and ground operations in Iraq and Syria are making it difficult for products to move in and out of militant strongholds, triggering price inflation and leading to the creation of black markets.**

(AP Photo)

fense in militant-held Mosul. But at a warehouse on the outskirts of the city, cigarettes, as well as hard-to-come-by essentials like kerosene, can be found at hugely inflated prices on a black market run by the extremists. There, a pack of cigarettes sells for 30,000 dinars — the equivalent of \$26 — more than double the pre-caliphate price, according to residents who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. The militants "are developing an unsustainable economy," said Paul Sullivan, an expert on Middle

defensive actions."

"ISIL cannot float government bonds like nations can," Sullivan added, using an alternate acronym for the group. "They can collect taxes, extort money, and so forth. But that will likely not be enough in the long run to keep such an unbalanced economic system going."

In the Syrian city of Raqqa, the extremists' so-called capital, the breakdown of security along the Syria-Iraq border in areas under Islamic State control has led to flourishing trade with Mosul. Trucks are also able

and power and water cuts grew more frequent, they said. In addition, the strict social laws imposed by the group have been very bad for business, said Bari Abdelatif, an activist in the Islamic State-controlled town of al-Bab in Syria's northern Aleppo province. But, he said, foreign fighters were bringing with them lots of hard currency, making up somewhat for the shortfall.

Last month, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State group, decreed the minting of gold, silver and copper coins for

## US Coast Guard to probe fatal St. Lucia ship fire

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— The U.S. Coast Guard says it will help investigate a cruise ship fire that killed one crew member and two contractors in the eastern Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

Officials said Friday they are sending four marine safety professionals to help with the probe by the Marshall Islands, where the ship is registered.

Officials with the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board also are helping.

The fire began Thursday in the engine room of the Oceania Insignia while it was docked at St. Lucia. The ship was on a 10-day cruise through the Caribbean and was scheduled to arrive in Miami on Wednesday.

The 656 passengers aboard the Insignia were evacuated safely and the remainder of the cruise was cancelled.

Passengers were flown back to Miami late Thursday and on Friday.

A crew member and two contractors died when the fire broke out aboard a luxury cruise ship docked at the eastern Caribbean island of St. Lucia, officials said.

The 656 passengers aboard the Oceania Insignia were



**Victor Gonzalez, left, executive vice president of passenger services for Oceania Cruises, meets passengers that had been evacuated from the cruise ship Oceania Insignia, as they arrive on a charter flight from St. Lucia to Miami International Airport, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in Miami.**

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

evacuated safely and the remainder of the cruise was cancelled, according to Oceania Cruises.

A crew member was in the hospital, said Jason Lasecki, senior director of public relations for Prestige Cruise Holdings, the parent company of Oceania Cruises.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic events that

occurred this morning on Insignia," said Lasecki, adding that passengers will be fully refunded and charter flights have been arranged to take them to Miami as well as accommodation until they can be flown to their cities of origin. Oceania's president and other officials are in St. Lucia.

It is unclear what caused the fire, which began in the

engine room and was contained.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending officials to help with the investigation, which was being led by the Marshall Islands, where the ship is registered. St. Lucia police declined to comment, and the island's fire officials could not be reached for comment. □

## Cuba:

### Rappers targeted by USAID program 'victims'

**ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**

**LAURA MUNOZ**

**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cuban rappers targeted by a clandestine U.S. program are "victims" unknowingly swept into an effort to spark an anti-government youth movement, the Cuban government said Friday in its first reaction to an Associated Press investigation into the initiative.

Vice Minister of Culture Fernando Rojas described the U.S. Agency for International Development program as "treachery" that drew in rappers Los Aldeanos and other Cuban musicians.

The hip-hop operation was conceived by one of

USAID's largest contractors, Creative Associates International, using a team of Serbian music promoters.

The Washington-based contractor also led other efforts aimed at undermining Cuba's communist government, including a secret Cuban

Twitter text-messaging service and an operation that sent in young, inexperienced Latin American "tourists" to recruit a new generation of activists.

The collection of USAID missions, which were all undertaken over the same period of 2009-2012 and cost millions, failed.

Rojas said Aldo Rodriguez,

lead singer of Los Aldeanos, had received backing from the Hermanos Saiz Association, a youth culture group with close government ties, and "I don't think he's lost that support."

"He, like all victims, needs to think," about the sources of his backing,

Rojas told reporters on Friday when asked about the USAID story. "There's treachery in the way these organizations operate."

The U.S. plan called for contractors to recruit dozens of Cuban musicians for projects disguised as cultural initiatives but really aimed at stoking a movement of fans to challenge the government.

They filmed TV shows and set up a social network on the island to connect some 200 musicians and artists who would be encouraged to start a social movement. Artists were flown to Europe ostensibly for concerts and video workshops,

but the real aim was to groom them as activists. Rodriguez, who now lives in Tampa, Florida,

told The Associated Press late Thursday that the effort had never influenced his lyrics or actions.

"Probably what they wanted was to help the music movement because Cuba is really a country that doesn't have anything," he said. □

## Ex-Guantanamo prisoners stroll Uruguay streets

**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay**

**(AP)** — Four of the men released this week after years of captivity at Guantanamo Bay have finally had their first long walk in freedom, stopping to buy a bit of cheese and bread on a stroll through Uruguay's capital.

The men — four Syrians, a Tunisian and a Palestinian — are staying at a house in a middle class neighborhood as guests of a major labor union, which has been asked to help by President Jose Mujica.

The union's executive secretary, Gabriel Melgareo, said Friday that four of them managed to elude journalists and went on a 6-mile (10-kilometer) walk along the banks of the Rio de la Plata on Thursday.

"They were enchanted by the blue sky of Montevideo, the tranquility of the city, the ability to walk through the streets in absolute calm," Melgareo told The Associated Press.

Bakery worker Laura Larrobla said two of the men stopped by to purchase cheese, yoghurt and bread. "They looked good, although they only talked through an interpreter," she said.

Melgarejo said that for the most part, the men are euphoric at their freedom and making plans to bring their families.

"Today they began taking Spanish classes," Melgarejo said. "A teacher came in the morning and we obtained several Arabic-Spanish dictionaries, which was not easy." People of Arabic descent make up a small part of Uruguay's population.

Melgarejo said the hosts are trying to accommodate the men's Islamic dietary restrictions: "We found lamb meat they can eat at a butcher shop that sells kosher meat for the Jewish community."

Melgareo said the former detainee with the greatest physical problems is Abu Wael Dhab, who carried out an extended hunger strike before he was released. □



## Mr. Anton & Mrs. Emmy Bergman honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority as Goodwill Ambassadors of the Island

**SPAANS LAGOEN** - Recently, Ms. Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor a couple of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home.

The symbolic honorary title was presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba between 20-or-more consecutive years. On December 11 the honorees were Mr. Anton and Mrs. Emmy Bergman of Utrecht, the Netherlands, honored as Goodwill Ambassadors for 27 consecutive years.

The certificate was presented to them by the representative of ATA Ms. Darline de Cuba in presence of Mrs. Brigitte and Gino Wauben at Spaans Lagoen.

The main reasons for returning to Aruba, as much as Anton and Emmy can, are their daughter Brigitte

Wauben and her family, the warm inviting sun, the gracious treatment from everyone, the absolute feeling of safety everywhere and anytime and all the friends they have made over the years.

Some interesting facts of the Bergman family: Anton was Dutch Champion Barber in 1961, and Emmy was Dutch Gymnastics Champion 1957!

Congratulations to Anton & Emmy on their 52th wedding anniversary!

The Bergman family sure did enjoy their 52nd wedding anniversary on Aruba. During the day both of them were treated like a king and queen around the breath taking pool under a private cabana with constant help at their side, over at the world famous Ritz-Carlton hotel.

The afternoon was filled with the surprise of a lifetime where the friendly Dar-



line de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority honored them as Goodwill Ambassadors of the Island.



sadors of the Island.

To top of the unforgettable day, dinner was served at their local hang out called "Zeeroovers" where Nathalya, their only granddaughter, handpicked all the golden oldies, like "Boney M", "the Cats" and "Bob Marley" from the jukebox. The only thing missing

on this amazing day was the presence of their son Angelo, his wife Amal and their grandson Noa, who were here for one entire month last November.

The entire staff of the Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba wishes them many more happy and healthy years together! □

## Minister Hooijboer-Winklaar receives her Aruba Bird Calendar

**ORANJESTAD** - Minister Michelle Hooijboer-Winklaar, responsible for education, received her Aruba bird calendar 2015 from Greg Peterson, chairman of Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

The theme of the calendar is "A call for nature conservation". Nature conservation should be made a high priority by the Government of Aruba in 2015.

In February of 2013, Parliament of Aruba voted unanimously in favor of giving the following areas of Aruba the National Park Status: the California Dunes, Important Bird Area Tierra del Sol, Saliña Malmok, Saliña Palm Beach, Bubaliplas (IBA), Sero Teishi, Spaans Lagoen (Ramsar area), Mangel Halto, Rooi Bringamosa, Rooi Taki, Rooi Manoonchi, IBA Reef islands Oranjestad, Mangrove areas, Rooi Lamunchi, Saliña Sabaneta, IBA reef islands San Nicolas and a strip of land alongside the coast in Sero Colorado.

Almost two years have passed, but unfortunately these significant and very vulnerable nature areas remain unprotected. Aruba Birdlife Conservation is calling to the government to act before these remaining nature areas are destroyed. Adding them to Parke Nacional Arikok now will preserve them for future generations. There is no time to lose.

Another very important matter is

the fact that Aruba still has no marine park. Aruba Birdlife Conservation is entreating the government to instate a national marine park

and fauna species have yet to be added to our nature law to start the process of their protection. In 2015 these lists should be finalized

such as anchored in Aruba's legislation. Aruba is grateful and we congratulate the government with this important milestone. Aruba's bird wildlife has two endemic subspecies: the Shoco and the Prikichi. Since the Shoco has been declared a National Symbol of Aruba, the position of national bird remains vacant. Aruba Birdlife Conservation calls on our government to nominate the Prikichi as the national bird of Aruba. The numbers of Prikichi are dropping very quickly and declaring it our national bird can help our beautiful and precious Prikichi from going extinct.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation is grateful to AIG for sponsoring the calendars and very appreciative to Minister Hooijboer-Winklaar for helping to promote nature conservation awareness throughout Aruba's education system. In 2012 she saw to it that our Shoco became one of Aruba's national symbols. Aruba is the only country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands that has a Burrowing Owl.

The bird calendars can be purchased at Kultured in the Mainstreet of Oranjestad, Best Deal in Paradera, Huchadain Santa Cruz and K&C Boutique (next to Springfield) in San Nicolas.

A bird calendar costs Awg. 12,50 and all funds will go to the foundation Aruba Birdlife Conservation. □



and to place it under Parke Nacional Arikok as well.

To date, Aruba's bird wildlife remains unprotected. Lists of flora

and put in place.

In 2012 Aruba's Burrowing Owl - the Shoco - was declared a National Symbol of Aruba and in 2014

## Richard van der Wal 15-fold Aruban Sunfish Sailing Champion



**ORANJESTAD** - The Aruban Sunfish Sailing Championship 2014 was recently held. The championship was won once again by Richard van der Wal, followed by

Randy Brown (2nd) and Job Laboyrie (3rd). The ranking list 2014 of Sunfish Club Aruba was won this year by Richard van der Wal followed by Job Laboyrie (2nd)

and Randy Brown (3rd). The ranking list entails other friendly competition and long distance races in addition to the championship. With this victory Richard van der

Wal has won the championship for the 15th time. This is a remarkable achievement which has not occurred before in the 40 years' history of Sunfish Club Aruba.

The "wisselstrop", a trophy for encouragement, was awarded this year to Sabine van der Wal who made a strong debut.

During the year there was more attention for recreational sailing and cooperation with other clubs such as the Youth Watersports Aruba Foundation (SYWA). During a closing dinner the board of Sunfish Club Aruba (SCA) congratulated Richard van der Wal for his exceptional performance and handed him the "Ernie Kervel rotating trophy".

Due to her great stability the Sunfish is very suitable for Aruba's coastal waters. New members are more than welcome. More information is available on the new Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/sunfishclubaruba](http://www.facebook.com/sunfishclubaruba) or through email [sunfishclubaruba@hotmail.com](mailto:sunfishclubaruba@hotmail.com) □



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## Aruba's First Official Guinness World Record Attempt: It's History in The Making at Ling & Sons Super Center!



**EAGLE BEACH** - On Saturday December 13th from 5pm till 7pm a n official world record attempt will take place in Aruba under auspices of the international record authority Guinness World Records. Ling & Sons Super Center, Fresh FM and Cool FM have joined forces in organizing this challenge: most powdered doughnuts eaten in three minutes. The current world record is held by Australian Shamus Petherick who achieved

world honor by consuming six donuts within the time limit. This record was set four years ago in Queensland, Australia. Rico Rijk from Fresh FM states: "When looking at the world record, you immediately thing it's easy to beat. But it is harder as it seems. We ran into this record on the internet while preparing for our radio shows. And, knowing for years that Ling & Sons is the home for not only the most delicious donuts on the island, but also



for its Dutch Oliebollen, the association was quickly made." Ling & Sons Super Center enthusiastically jumped into this occasion. Marlenne Maduro from Ling & Sons says "When Fresh FM and Cool FM approached us; we thought this would be a unique and fun way to kick of our Oliebollen season. The holidays are nearing, so we just want to let everyone know we are ready for this wonderful time of the year." Over the last few weeks booth Cool FM and Fresh FM have been calling for participants to break the

world record, which has never been done before in Aruba. The contestants will be facing a serious challenge. Even though the record of six donuts in three minutes seems beatable, the terms raise the bar. For example, each donut needs to be swallowed before the other may be consumed, no drinking is allowed during the attempt and no licking lips either. The attempt will be monitored by official referees and it will be recorded for video proof. Radio stations Fresh FM and Cool FM will be broadcasting this event live from Ling & Sons

from 4pm till 8pm. Everybody is welcome to visit and participants are still welcome. For more information people can email [info@fresharuba.com](mailto:info@fresharuba.com) or call 583-2220. Participation and entrance is free. For more information contact: Rico Rijk - Fresh FM 104.3 (tel: 593-0705) Marlenne Maduro - Ling & Sons (tel. 744-3515) Official link to record details: <http://www.guinness-worldrecords.com/world-records/most-powdered-doughnuts-eaten-in-three-minutes>

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to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. James and Mrs. Linda Ritter from Forest Hill, Maryland. James and Linda are loyal guests of the Marriott Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels



like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Marriott Resort is their home away

from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Author-

ity together with management and staff members of the Marriott and Stellaris Casino Beach Resort. □

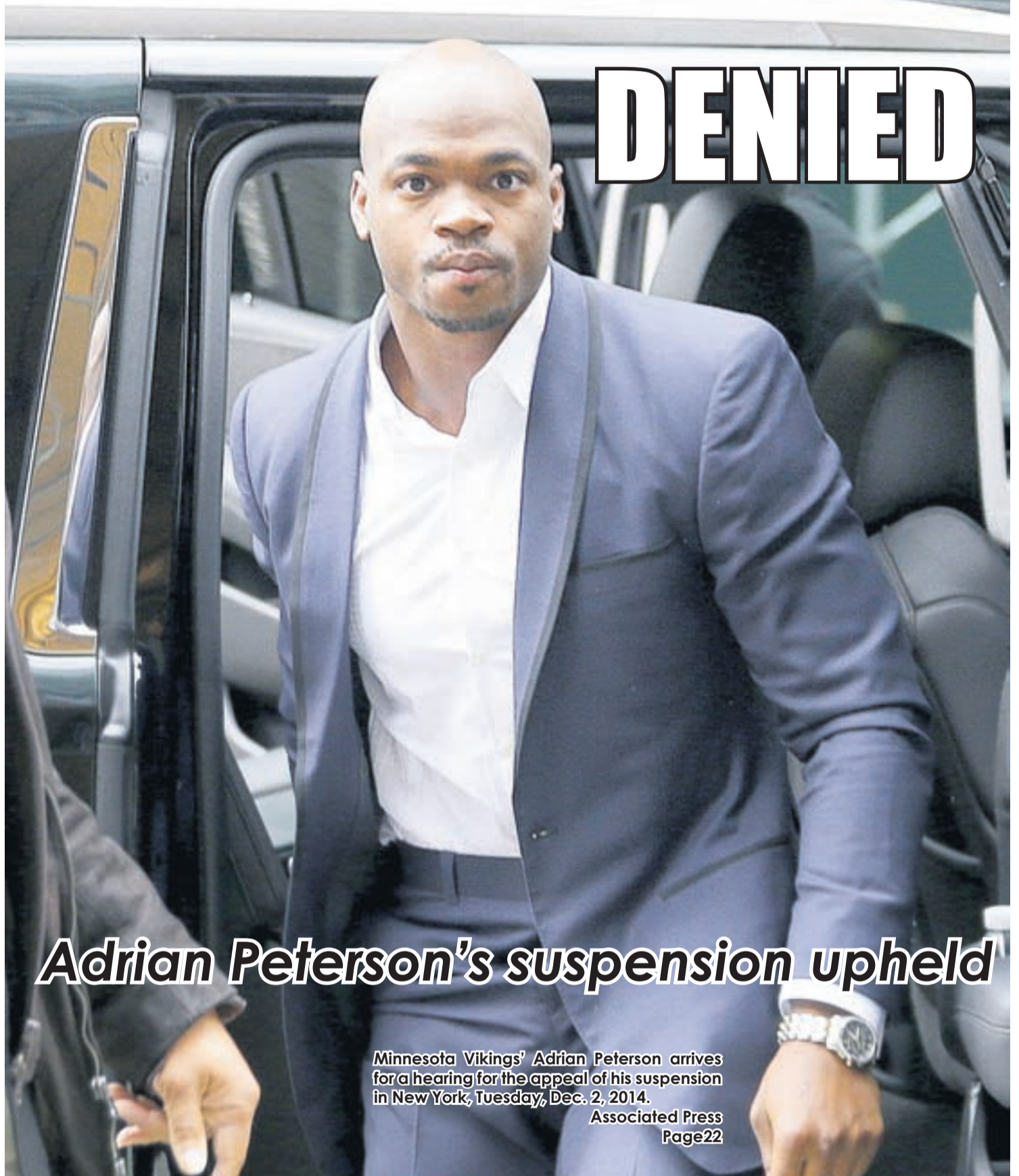


File-This Sept. 26, 2014, file photo shows New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter smiling as he talks with reporters prior to a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston.  
Associated Press

## Gregorius arrives In NY with title: Sir Didi

**RONALD BLUM**  
AP Sports Writer  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Derek Jeter earned five titles for the New York Yankees. His successor at shortstop already has one: Sir Didi Gregorius, proud member of Order of Orange-Nassau. New York's newest infielder was knighted after playing for the Netherlands in the 2011 Baseball World Cup, where the Dutch beat Cuba 2-1 in the final. He goes by his noble rank on his Twitter account.

Continued on Next Page



## Adrian Peterson's suspension upheld

Minnesota Vikings' Adrian Peterson arrives for a hearing for the appeal of his suspension in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014.

Associated Press  
Page 22

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# Sir Didi

Continued from Previous Page

"Some people actually call me Sir Didi," he said from Curacao during a telephone conference call Friday. "I don't really mind if they just call me Didi." Gregorius was acquired from Arizona on Dec. 5 as part of a three-team trade that sent right-hander Shane Greene to Detroit. Yankees general manager Brian Cashman figures Gregorius will be part of a short-stop platoon with Brendan Ryan, starting against most right-handed pitchers. At the Baseball World Cup in Panama three years ago, Gregorius hit .265 (9 for 34) with a two-run homer in a 19-0 rout of Greece. That Nov. 11 in the Dutch city of Haarlem, Dutch Minister of Sports Edith Schipper announced knighthoods for the 24 players, manager Brian Farley and technical director Robert Eenhoorn,



In this July 3, 2014, file photo, Arizona Diamondbacks' Didi Gregorius stands in the dugout before a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

saying she was acting on behalf of Queen Beatrix. Gregorius joined an order established in 1892. "Instead of giving us money, they decided to just knight us — all the guys that had a clean record," Gregorius said. He will be taking over a

position manned for most of the last 19 seasons by a Yankees icon, who led the team to one of its greatest eras. Gregorius, who turns 25 in February, paints and sketches for relaxation. On Oct. 6, he tweeted a drawing of Jeter with the message: Re2pect to the

captain..... Had to draw it superstar." "I always wanted to play in New York City. Now I'm following in his footsteps," Gregorius said. "Jeter is still Jeter. Everything that everybody is going to talk about is Jeter. But for me — I'm learning and I'm there

just to play the game, so just trying to focus on the game and trying to win every game, that's all I can say, not worrying about what's going on around." Named Mariexson Julius Gregorius, he was born in the Netherlands and grew in Curacao, a Dutch territory until 2010 that is now a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Among the major leaguers from there are Kenley Jansen, Andruw Jones, Jurickson Profar and Andrelton Simmons. He was signed by Cincinnati in 2007, traded to Arizona in December 2012 and hit his first big league homer at Yankee Stadium on April 18, 2013, against Phil Hughes. Known for above-average defense, Gregorius lost Arizona's starting shortstop job to Chris Owings during spring training this year but was recalled at midseason and hit .226 with six homers and 27 RBIs in 80 games — just .137 (7 for 51) against left-handers.

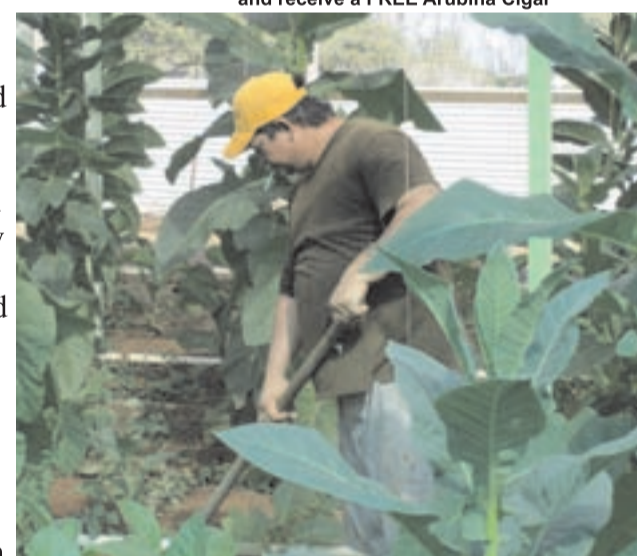
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## Westbrook leads Thunder past Cavaliers

By **CLIFF BRUNT**  
AP Sports Writer

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) --** The Cleveland Cavaliers found out before Thursday's game that they would be without LeBron James. They couldn't have found a less sympathetic opponent. Oklahoma City, which struggled without injured stars Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant the first month of the season, took advantage of the short-handed Cavaliers with a 103-94 victory. James sat out with left knee soreness, and without him, Cleveland's winning streak ended at eight games. Cavaliers coach David Blatt said before the game that James' injury wasn't too serious, and he would be day-to-day. Oklahoma City still expected a tough game because

Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love are capable players. "We told them right from the start they're a good team," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "They've got two All-Stars on the court that are really good, and they're going to have an opportunity to have the ball in their hands even more. We knew they were going to compete. We weren't taking them lightly." Oklahoma City's now-healthy dynamic duo took control as Westbrook scored 26 points on 12-for-24 shooting with eight assists and seven rebounds, and Durant scored 19 points. Irving scored 20 points for Cleveland, but he made just 7 of 21 shots while struggling to finish against the ultra-athletic Westbrook. The Thunder have won six of seven after a 3-12 start.

"We're growing," Durant said. "Every single game, you can see defensively, offensively, we're starting to catch a stride. We've just got to continue to do it." Love had 18 points and 16 rebounds, and Tristan Thompson added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers. Cleveland had another injury scare in the first half. With 1:31 left in the second quarter, Irving jumped to contest a shot by Westbrook, and his knee connected with Westbrook's knee on the way down. A lot went through Blatt's head as he watched Irving writhe on the floor in front of the Thunder bench. "Fear. Worry. Concern. And hope, which ultimately won the day," Blatt said. "There's a great saying in Russian ... 'Hope dies last.'"



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) dunks in front of teammate Reggie Jackson (15) and Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dion Waiters (3) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014. Associated Press

Thank goodness he got up and he was able to play." Irving expects to play at New Orleans on Friday. "It will definitely stiffen up on me, without a doubt, but I plan on playing tomorrow," he said. "It just depends on how it feels in the morning. But as of right now, I'm going to gut it out, no matter what." A 10-0 run by the Thunder, featuring 3-pointers by

Serge Ibaka and Anthony Morrow, gave Oklahoma City a 67-57 lead in the third quarter. Durant, who had been quiet for most of the game, found Morrow for a 3-pointer, then made a 3 himself to help Oklahoma City take a 78-66 lead into the fourth quarter. A step-back jumper, then a 3 by Jackson bumped Oklahoma City's lead to 83-66. □

# Hawks win eighth straight, lose Toews

**BOSTON (AP)** — Ben Smith assisted on the Blackhawks' first goal and scored their second to lead Chicago to its eighth consecutive victory, 3-2 over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night. The Blackhawks lost captain and No. 2 scorer Jonathan Toews in the second period when Dennis Seidenberg hit him from behind and sent him face-first into the boards. Scott Darling made 32 saves for the Blackhawks, who have won 11 of 12 and lost just twice in the past month. Tuukka Rask stopped 18 shots for Boston. The Bruins have lost four of five and six out of eight. Reilly Smith and Torey Klug scored for Boston. The Bruins were boosted by the return of captain Zdeno Chara, who missed seven weeks with a torn ligament in his left knee.



Fans argue with a referee Ghislain Hebert (22) as Chicago Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews lays on the ice after being hit from behind by Boston Bruins defenseman Dennis Seidenberg (44) during the second period of an NHL game in Boston, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014. Toews left the game after the play.

Associated Press

Klas Dahlbeck and Patrick Kane also scored for Chicago, and Marcus Kruger had a pair of assists as the Blackhawks opened a 3-0

lead midway through the second period.

**FLYERS 4, DEVILS 1**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Matt Read and Sean Couturier

each had a goal and an assist to lead Philadelphia over New Jersey.

Wayne Simmonds added a power-play goal for the

Flyers, and Jakub Voracek scored an empty-netter late in the third period to seal the win.

Martin Havlat scored for the Devils.

The Flyers opened a four-game homestand with a needed win after dropping four of five on the road. Three of the four losses were by one goal.

The Devils have lost two straight.

With Steve Mason 0-5 against the Devils, Ray Emery got the start for the Flyers. Emery was 0-4 with a 4.12 GAA in his last four starts. But he was hardly tested against the Devils and earned his fifth win.

**SABRES 4, FLAMES 3**

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Matt Moulson scored twice and Jhonas Enroth stopped 42 shots as Buffalo beat Calgary.

Continued on Next Page

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# Here comes that word in the NFL again: CLINCH

**BARRY WILNER**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

As the NFL regular season winds down, there's a word most coaches and players try to avoid uttering, yet always are aware of. Clinch.

The New England Patriots, Denver Broncos, and Indianapolis Colts are on the verge of clinching their divisions, while the Green Bay Packers and Arizona Cardinals can reach out and grab playoff berths this week.

"Coach (Bill Belichick) hasn't mentioned that. Normally he has," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said this week. "You're playing for a division championship, so it's a very important game. We've worked really hard to get to this point."

The Miami Dolphins rallied in the heat to beat the Patriots in the season opener, but it won't be hot in Foxborough on Sunday, when New England will be a hefty favorite to grab its 12th division crown in 14 years.

By winning out, the Patriots also will have home-field advantage for the AFC



**Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) rolls out of the pocket in the second half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014.**

**Associated Press**

playoffs.

Miami has little wiggle room in its quest for a playoff spot, but has won two straight against New England.

"It just shows that we can compete with the team," cornerback Brent Grimes

said. "We can give any team a hard time, just pressuring the quarterback and things like that, covering guys."

The Broncos go to San Diego having won the past three in their series and seven of eight overall. Continu-

ing that trend would give the Broncos their fourth straight AFC West crown.

"It's a lot on the line," Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning said. "It's tough playing there. Every time we've played this team, it seems like it's been settled

by a couple of points here or there."

The Chargers are in control of their destiny, but will need to win two of their final three to have a realistic shot at the playoffs. With regular punter Mike Scifres out, the Chargers signed 35-year-old Australian-born Mat McBriar.

The Houston Texans never have won at Indianapolis in 12 trips, and are 4-21 overall against the Colts. Indeed, Houston's only defeat in the AFC South this year is to the Colts.

Perhaps their best chance to win is to force some turnovers, something Colts passer Andrew Luck and Indianapolis have struggled with recently. The Texans lead the NFL with 29 takeaways.

The Colts have won 11 in a row within the division and could celebrate receiver Reggie Wayne becoming their franchise record holder for games played and wins, breaking ties with Manning (208 games, 141 wins).

Green Bay, with a win at Buffalo and a combination of losses elsewhere, will secure a postseason spot. □

## NFL CAPSULES

**Continued on Next Page**

Zemgus Girgensons and Marcus Foligno also scored for the Sabres.

and Tyler Ennis had three assists. Moulson's second of the game, on a pass from Ennis with 7:29 to go, broke the 3-all tie and gave the Sabres their second straight win.

Mark Giordano, Sean Monahan and David Jones scored for Calgary, which outshot Buffalo 45-19.

The Sabres have won four straight at home, and are 4-4 against the Pacific Division.

### **BLUE JACKETS 3, CAPITALS 2, OT**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nick Foligno scored a power-play goal at 4:41 of overtime, Sergei Bobrovsky had 39 saves, and Columbus topped Washington for its fifth straight victory.

With Jason Chimera in the penalty box for interference, Foligno put a slap shot from the right circle past goalie Braden Holtby to give the Blue Jackets their only lead of the game. It was Foligno's second goal of the game and team-high 13th of the season. Kevin Connauton also scored for Columbus.

Washington finished with a 41-23 advantage in shots, but Bobrovsky was the equalizer. Eric Fehr and Troy Brouwer had goals for the Capitals, whose three-game winning streak ended.

### **LIGHTNING 2, HURRICANES 1**

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Nikita Kucherov scored a pair of goals in the third period to lift Tampa Bay over Carolina. Kucherov scored the winner when his pass went off Carolina defenseman Ron Hainsey and into the net with 30.3 seconds to play.

Lightning backup Evgeni Nabokov made 29 saves in his 353rd NHL victory, two away from tying Rogie Vachon for 17th place on the league's career list.

Justin Faulk scored for the Hurricanes, who have scored four goals during a four-game losing streak. Cam Ward stopped 25 shots.

### **KINGS 5, SENATORS 3**

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Trevor Lewis' goal at 4:02 of the third period held up as the winner as Los Angeles beat Ottawa in Dave Cameron's first game as Senators head coach.

Cameron was promoted on Monday by Ottawa after Paul MacLean was fired. Matt Greene, Justin Williams, Anze Kopitar and Tanner Pearson also scored for the Kings. Jake Muzzin had three assists, and Jonathan Quick made 32 saves. Bobby Ryan, Mark Stone and Jared Cowen scored for the Senators (11-12-5).

Craig Anderson stopped 31 shots.

Trailing 2-1, the Senators got off to a solid start in the third period to tie the game, but in less than two minutes the Kings regained a two-goal lead.

With 1:21 remaining, Cowen got a shot through traffic that eluded Quick, but Pearson scored into an empty net for his 11th goal of the season.

### **BLUES 6, ISLANDERS 3**

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alexander Steen scored two goals, and Jake Allen made 25 saves in St. Louis' win against the suddenly slumping New York Islanders.

Steen's goal at 4:34 of the third period broke a 2-2 tie. T.J. Oshie and Paul Stastny added insurance goals at 15:47 and 17:48.

Kyle Okposo scored his sixth goal for New York at 18:16, before Jaden Schwartz ended any hopes of a comeback with an empty-net goal at 18:56.

After surrendering just four goals during a three game winning streak, the Islanders have given up 17 during their skid — including six twice to the Blues.

The Islanders tied it with a pair of goals late in the second period.

John Tavares scored his 12th goal of the season at 16:03 to put the Islanders on the board. Mikhail Grabovski's unassisted goal at 19:55 tied it.

### **PREDATORS 5, COYOTES 1**

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — James Neal had a goal and an assist, Pekka Rinne stopped 31 shots for his NHL-best 19th win, and Nashville sent slumping Arizona to its eighth straight loss.

Mike Fisher, Ryan Ellis, Calle Jarnkrok and Olli Jokinen also scored in the Predators' second consecutive win. Mike Ribeiro added his team-best 17th assist in a boo-filled return to Arizona following a summer contract buyout. □

# Adrian Peterson's appeal denied, suspension upheld

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — An arbiter appointed by the NFL ruled Friday that Minnesota Vikings star running back Adrian Peterson will remain suspended until at least next spring in the child-abuse case that has sidelined him for all but one game this season.

The decision by Harold Henderson, a former league official, upheld the NFL's decision last month to suspend Peterson without pay for the remainder of the season and not consider him for reinstatement before April 15.

Peterson was paid during his appeal, but Henderson's ruling means Peterson will forfeit checks from the team's last six games. That amounts to a fine of more than \$4.1 million.

The NFL Players Association called Henderson's objectivity into question and said it was "considering immediate legal remedies" to the decision.

"The NFLPA expected this outcome, given the hearing officer's relationship and financial ties to the NFL," the union said in a statement. "The decision itself ignores the facts, the evidence and the collective bargaining agreement. This decision also represents the NFL's repeated failure to adhere



**Minnesota Vikings' Adrian Peterson, right, arrives for a hearing for the appeal of his suspension in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014.**  
 Associated Press

to due process and confirms its inconsistent treatment of players."

The Vikings declined to comment. Peterson is a three-time, first-team Associated Press All-Pro and reached the Pro Bowl in six of his first seven NFL seasons, all with Minnesota. Peterson led the NFL in rushing twice, including 2012 when his 2,097 yards fell 9 short of breaking Eric Dickerson's all-time record, but he may never play again for the Vikings after this mess.

Peterson was charged with felony child abuse

in September for using a wooden switch to discipline his 4-year-old son, but he pleaded no contest to misdemeanor reckless assault in November. He had been on paid leave, on a special exempt list at the discretion of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, while his case moved through the court system.

At the crux of the NFLPA's argument for reinstatement was what NFL executive vice president for football operations Troy Vincent told Peterson last month when the dispute was at its height. Accord-

ing to a person with knowledge of the conversation, Vincent told Peterson he would receive a two-game ban if he attended a hearing on Nov. 14 with Goodell.

Peterson declined to meet that day with Goodell, citing uncertainty about the NFL's intent to question him. Goodell then announced on Nov. 18 that Peterson would be suspended for the six games that remained for the Vikings at the time and not be considered for reinstatement until April.

A recording and a tran-

script of what Vincent told Peterson was presented by the NFLPA to Henderson, who oversaw a hearing on Dec. 2. Peterson attended that and listened via telephone as the hearing continued on Dec. 4, when Vincent was questioned. The union and league have been sniping at each other over the personal-conduct policy since former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice's case eventually prompted Goodell to upgrade the penalty for a first offense of assault, battery or domestic violence to a six-game suspension. After first suspending Rice for two games, Goodell suspended Rice indefinitely amid a national furor over his initial leniency.

Rice's appeal, however, went to a neutral arbiter who ruled in his favor and reinstated him.

Peterson injured his son when the boy visited him in May at his home in the Houston area. Peterson acknowledged physically disciplining the boy as he had been as a youth, but said he meant no harm and was sorry for the trouble he caused. Peterson reached a no-contest plea agreement in Texas on Nov. 4, reducing the charge to misdemeanor reckless assault for probation time, community service and a small fine. □



**Arizona Cardinals quarterback Drew Stanton (5) is tackled by St. Louis Rams outside linebacker Alec Ogletree (52) during the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 in St. Louis.**  
 Associated Press

By JEFF LATZKE

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The Arizona

Cardinals know all too well the feeling of seeing their quarterback leaving the

## Cards lose Stanton, beat Rams 12-6

field in pain.

It happened the last time the Cardinals (11-3) faced the St. Louis Rams, then again in the rematch Thursday night.

The only silver lining: They found a way to win both times and are on the verge of clinching a playoff berth after slugging out a 12-6 win behind Chandler Catanzaro's four field goals.

"I'm glad we don't have to play the Rams anymore. Both times we played them, they banged our quarterbacks up," receiver Larry Fitzgerald said after being limited to 30 yards

and seven catches. "It's unfortunate."

Drew Stanton hopped off the field after getting sacked by Aaron Donald in the third quarter, and coach Bruce Arians wasn't sure about the extent of the injury to his right knee. Stanton, who became the starter after Carson Palmer suffered a season-ending injury in the last game against the Rams last month, was expected to get an MRI on Friday.

"We'll take it very slowly with him and see how it goes," Arians said.

Stanton's injury forced

Ryan Lindley into his first playing time since 2012. He completed his first pass to set up a 51-yard field goal by Catanzaro, then had a 14-yard pass to John Brown on third-and-7 to spark a drive that led to Catanzaro's 44-yarder and a 12-3 lead early in the fourth quarter. Lindley started four games for Arizona as a rookie in 2012 and was cut by the Cardinals in training camp this year. He was signed off San Diego's practice squad after Palmer got hurt, but has hardly practiced with the team's top players. □



This undated handout photo shows creators of the Driving While Black app in Portland, Ore., from left, software developer James Pritchett, lawyers Mariann Hyland and Melvin Oden-Orr.  
Associated Press

## Driving while black? App developer offer advice

STEVEN DUBOIS  
Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Though the developers of the soon-to-be released "Driving While Black" smartphone application want motorists to download their product, there is a time when they definitely don't want users searching for it. "Do not reach for your phone when you are talking to police," stressed Melvin Oden-Orr, one of two lawyers creating the app. Avoiding moves that could make police think you're reaching for a gun is just one tip included in the app that educates drivers about how to safely deal with police during traffic stops. Despite its attention-grabbing name, Oden-Orr said the app due for release in late December will provide common sense advice to motorists of all races and outline what civil rights you have during a stop. With the phone hopefully in a hands-free device, the app allows drivers to send an alert to friends and family that they have been pulled over. There's also a recording function to document the interaction with an officer. The app is coming to market as protesters around

the country keep attention on instances of deadly encounters with police in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City. Similar apps also are aimed at helping people navigate interactions with police. Three Georgia teenagers created "Five-O," an app released this summer that lets people rate their interactions with law enforcement. And last month, American Civil Liberties Union affiliates in four states unveiled "Mobile Justice," an app that allows users to take video of police encounters and upload the video to the ACLU. It's modeled on "Stop and Frisk Watch," an app released for New Yorkers in 2012. "It's obviously in the forefront of everybody's mind; the police know they are being recorded and people in public know they can record," said Sarah Rossi, director of advocacy and policy for the ACLU Missouri affiliate. "I think the benefit of this app (Mobile Justice) specifically is it goes straight to the ACLU and we can review it for any due-process violations." The apps also include a "Know Your Rights" section that informs people about their rights when contacted by police. □

## Survey shows Internet's broadening political role



In this Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014 file photo, Bow Stanley, from Silver Lake, Kan, votes at the Prairie Home Cemetery building in Topeka, Kan.  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Would-be 2016 presidential candidates take note: the Internet may potentially make or break your campaign. More Internet users than ever view online efforts as key to political campaigns, according to a survey released Thursday by the University of Southern California. The USC Annenberg School's Center for the Digital Future has polled more than 2,000 U.S. households about their Internet and technology use each year, starting in 1999. It has published the results every year since 2000, with the exception of 2011. The latest results from the 2013 survey show that that 75 percent of Internet users age 16 and older agree that the Internet is important for the political campaign process. That was up from the previous high response of 72 percent in 2010. And 37 percent of users in that age range said that by using the Internet, people like them can have more political power. That's up from 29 percent in 2000. "We may be entering a realm where the Internet plays a larger role in political campaigns than television does," Jeffrey Cole, director of the Center for

the Digital Future, said in a statement. In 2012, television ads were the primary communications tool for the campaigns of President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger Mitt Romney, despite the gradual but persistent shift of viewers from television to the Internet. But both teams maintained a robust social media presence and used online ads for micro-targeting voters based on their reading and shopping habits. "The question is becoming which party uses online technology better — who has a message that resonates most effectively through digital media, and whose audience is more willing to participate in elections because of the Internet," Cole said. The report said that 63 percent of the Internet users polled agree that going online can help users better understand politics, while 34 percent agree that the Internet will make public officials care more about what users think. Some other key findings include: — 41 percent of Internet users said that most or all of the information online is reliable. That is the lowest

level reported in the Digital Future studies since 2009, when it was 39 percent. — 75 percent said most or all of the information on the sites they visit regularly is reliable and accurate — but that percentage is the lowest to date of all the Digital Future studies. — 31 percent of adults said the children in their household spend too much time online. That's one percentage point below the high of 32 percent in 2012. — 56 percent of Internet users are concerned about companies checking what they do online, while 46 percent are worried about the government checking what they do online. — 79 percent of adults who use the Internet make purchases online. And 60 percent said that online purchases reduced their buying in traditional retail stores. — 47 percent of respondents age 18 and older who have a credit card are very concerned or extremely concerned about credit card security when buying online. That's up from 44 percent in 2012 but down from 71 percent in 2001. — 11 percent of Internet users said they have been harassed or bullied online. □

# Stocks plunge as oil rout continues

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — What a difference a week makes. Seven days after closing at record levels on the back of a strong employment report, the stock market slumped to its worst weekly loss in two and a half years. The catalyst for the sell-off was an extension of a rout in oil prices. Oil plunged Friday for the fourth time in five days after the International Energy Agency said global oil demand will grow less than previously forecast next year. The price of oil fell 12 percent for the week, going below \$60 per barrel on Thursday for the first time since July 2009. Oil has now fallen 47 percent since reaching a peak of \$107 in June this year.

A debate is raging among analysts and investors over whether tumbling oil prices are a net advantage, or a detriment, to the economy and the stock market. While consumers benefit from low-

emerging from the Great Recession.

“In a nation like the U.S. (as well as) Europe and most of Asia, the benefits of falling oil outweighs the costs,” said Jeff Kleintop, Schwab’s chief global investment strategist. “The concern is that there’s something more to it, given such a sharp decline, that there’s something deeper here.” The Standard & Poor’s fell 33 points, or 1.6 percent, to 2,002.33. The index dropped 3.5 percent in the week, its biggest drop since May 2012.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 315.51 points, or 1.8 percent, to 17,280.83. The Nasdaq composite dropped 54.57 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,653.60.

After flirting with a close above 18,000 just one week ago, the Dow has now shed more than 700 points after being weighed down by big losses in Exxon Mobil and Chevron.

Stocks started the day lower after a report showed that

\$57.81 a barrel. Brent, the international benchmark, lost \$1.83, or 2.9 percent, to \$61.85 a barrel. Energy stocks in the S&P 500 index fell 2.1 percent, taking their loss for the year to 16.5 percent.

Some companies bucked the downward trend.

Adobe reported fourth-quarter results late Thursday that beat Wall Street expectations. Adobe also said it will pay \$800 million to buy the stock image and video company Fotolia. The stock jumped \$6.28, or 9 percent, to \$76.02.

Government bond prices rose. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which falls when prices rise, dropped to 2.08 percent from 2.17 percent Thursday. The dollar fell. The U.S. currency dropped 0.2 percent to 118.74 yen. The euro rose 0.5 percent against the dollar to \$1.24593.

In metals trading, silver fell six cents, or 0.3 percent, to \$17.06 an ounce. Gold



**Adewole Badmus at the University of Houston’s library, where he studies and looks for work in the oil industry, in Houston, Dec. 10, 2014. “I hope it will not take much longer,” he said. “I cannot move forward. I cannot move backward. So I just have to keep pushing.” (Michael Stravato/The New York Times)**

## Wealth gap widens between whites and minorities: Study

**SARAH SELL**  
**AP Business Writer**

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)**—The economic recovery has not been equal among the races, according to a Pew Research Center study released Friday. The study found that the wealth gap between white households and minorities has widened in recent years.

The wealth of white households was 13 times greater than that of black households in 2013, versus eight times the wealth in 2010. And the wealth of white households was more than 10 times that of Hispanic households, up from nine times the wealth in 2010.

Pew researchers — analyzing data from the Federal Reserve’s Survey of Consumer Finances — found that the gap between whites and blacks has reached its highest point since 1989. The wealth ratio for whites-to-Hispanics is at a level not seen since 2001.

Net worth is a measure of the difference between the household’s assets and their liabilities. The typical household had a net worth of \$81,400 in 2013, according to the Fed’s survey.

The recession was universally hard on American families as a stock market crash and plunging house prices ate into their net worth. From 2007 to 2010, the median net worth of American families fell 39 percent.

But this is the first time researchers have been able to look closely at the impact of the economic recovery on households.

“I think this strikes on what many people have felt, the slow and uneven nature of the recovery,” said Rakesh Kochhar, one of the study’s authors.

Researchers say a number of factors may be responsible for the widening gap: falling income, lower savings rate and different asset holdings.

The median income in minority households fell 9 percent from 2010 and 2013, versus a 1 percent drop in white households. And in turn, researchers say, minority households may have either been forced to draw down from savings to get by or were unable to replenish their savings as much as white households.

Additionally, certain financial assets, such as stocks, recovered more quickly than housing since the recession ended. And white households are more likely than minorities to own stocks, putting them in a better position for a recovery.

Still, the researchers say that income has been under pressure across the races.

“It’s been almost a decade now since the typical American has seen an increase in income,” Kochhar said. “It’s really historical in the duration of time that incomes have not risen.” □



**Floor official Rudy Maas, center, works with traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014. Seven days after closing at record levels on the back of a strong employment report, the stock market slumped to its worst weekly loss in two and a half years. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

er gas prices, energy companies will take a hit as their earnings are crimped. Those companies will also spend less on plants and equipment, hurting their suppliers. Investors are also starting to worry whether the slump in demand for oil is signaling that growth outside of the U.S. is weaker than had been thought. The last time oil prices were this low was when the U.S. economy was

growth in factory output in China, the world’s second-largest economy, declined last month.

The data came after Chinese leaders affirmed their commitment to the “new normal” of slower growth as they try to steer China toward a more sustainable expansion based on domestic consumption.

U.S. benchmark oil dropped \$2.14, or 3.6 percent, to

dropped \$3.10, or 0.3 percent, to \$1,222.50. Copper rose a penny, or 0.4 percent, to \$2.93 a pound.

In other futures trading on the NYMEX:

— Wholesale gasoline fell 2.7 cents to close at \$1.597 a gallon.

— Heating oil fell 4.5 cents to close at \$2.016 a gallon.

— Natural gas rose 16.1 cents to close at \$3.795 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

## CEO and creative director of Gucci stepping down

**COLLEEN BARRY**  
AP Business Writer

**MILAN (AP)** — Gucci creative director Frida Giannini and CEO Patrizio di Marco are leaving their posts next year, the luxury brand's parent company said Friday, in what is the biggest shake-up since star designer Tom Ford left 12 years ago. The moves come as the industry witnesses a downturn in some of its major Asian markets to go

alongside difficulties in Europe, and amid speculation about the double-G brand's search for identity in the post-logo era. Florence-based Gucci, which analysts say is responsible for two-thirds of Kering's profits, saw third-quarter revenues drop 2 percent to 851 million euros (\$1.05 billion). Shares in Kering closed down 2 percent at 155.65 euros.

Giannini will step down as

creative director, a post she has held since 2006, after showing her fall/winter 2014-2015 collections for men in January and women in February. No replacement was immediately announced. She joined Gucci in 2002 as the lead designer for leather goods, adding women's ready-to-wear in 2005, before being named the sole creative director.

Di Marco leaves his post at

the end of the year after 13 years with the group, first as CEO of Bottega Veneta, another brand in the company's stable. He will be replaced by Marco Bizzarri. Giannini and di Marco are also partners and the parents of a young daughter. Kering Chairman and CEO Francois-Henri Pinault heaped praise on both and noted Giannini's "remarkable accomplishment" of having overseen

all aspects of the global brand's image and products for nearly a decade. Kering credited di Marco with making Gucci among the best-performing brands in the luxury industry. Pinault has been a fixture in the Gucci front-row during Milan Fashion Week, often with his wife, Selma Hayak Pinault, who is both a friend of Giannini's and a fan of her designs. □

## Cheaper gas, food lower US producer prices

**C. S. RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** Falling gas and food costs pushed down overall U.S. wholesale prices last month, evidence that cheaper oil worldwide is limiting inflation. The Labor Department said Friday that the producer price index fell 0.2 percent in November, after rising by the same amount in October. In the past 12 months, producer prices have risen just 1.4 percent, the smallest yearly increase since February.

The index measures the cost of goods and services before they reach the consumer. American consumers are already seeing lower prices at the gas pump, which has left them with more money to spend on other items.

Wholesale gas prices plunged 6.3 percent, the steepest drop in more than two years. Food prices de-

creased 0.2 percent, led by sharp declines in pork,

costs.

Excluding the volatile food

core producer prices were unchanged last month and

the past 12 months.

That's below the Federal Reserve's target of 2 percent. The target is intended to guard against deflation, or falling prices. Deflation could pull down wages, while leaving debts unchanged, and potentially trigger another recession. At the same time, the Fed also tries to stop inflation from running so high that it could erode the buying power of consumers and businesses.

The retreat of wholesale costs gives the Fed more leeway to keep interest rates at record lows in an effort to stimulate the economy. Many economists forecast the Fed will start raising rates next June. "Inflation pressures remain very modest in the U.S. ... which gives policymakers more wiggle room to hold back," said Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets. □



**Nissan trim and chassis workers work on a new 2015 Nissan Murano at the Nissan plant in Canton, Miss. The Labor Department released the Producer Price Index for November on Friday, Dec. 12, 2014.**

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

fresh fruit and dairy product and energy categories, have risen 1.8 percent in

## Judge rules firm must continue selling Alzheimer's drug

**ANDREW POLLACK**  
© 2014 New York Times

A federal judge has decided to block for now an attempt by drug company Actavis to halt sales of an older form of its Alzheimer's disease drug Namenda in favor of a newer version with a longer patent life. The decision, issued this week, represents a victory for New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, who had filed an antitrust lawsuit against Actavis in September, accusing the company of forcing patients to switch to the

newer version of the widely used medicine to thwart competition from generic manufacturers.

The decision was made by Judge Robert W. Sweet in U.S. District Court in Manhattan but was sealed because it contained confidential information. Both the attorney general and Actavis, however, confirmed that the judge had issued a preliminary injunction that would stop Actavis from discontinuing sales of the older Namenda while the case is being decided. Brent Saunders, chief ex-

ecutive of Actavis, said in a statement that the company was "disappointed by today's unprecedented ruling" but was "prepared to manage our business in a way that provides the least disruption in our ability to support the marketplace and minimize any financial impact on our company." The company said it would appeal the decision.

The case involves a practice called product hopping by critics, who say it is meant to thwart generic competition. Most generic drugs are dispensed be-

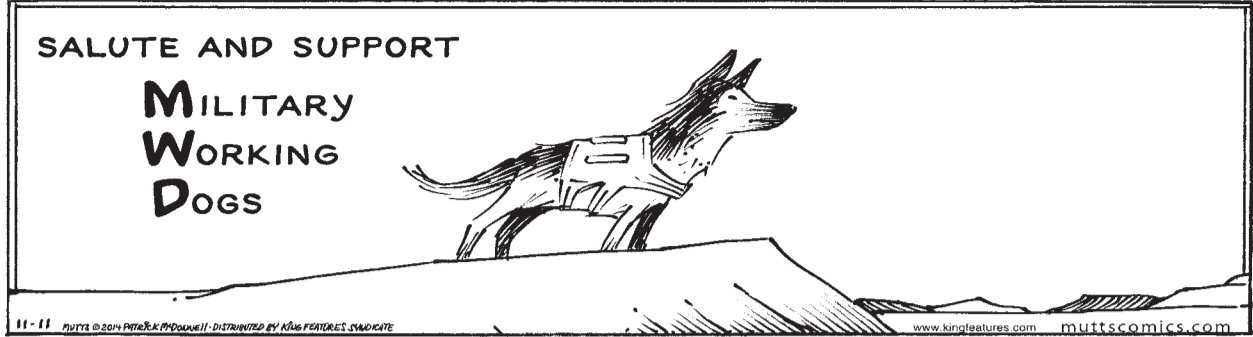
cause state laws allow or require pharmacists to substitute a cheaper generic when a doctor prescribes the brand-name drug. But if the brand-name version is different from the generic, then the substitution cannot be made.

The old form of Namenda, a tablet taken twice a day, is expected to face generic competition starting in July. Actavis wants to switch patients to the newer Namenda XR, a capsule taken only once a day, by then.

While the company says

that the less frequent dosing is a good thing for patients, its executives also have said that the switch would make it harder for generic manufacturers to gain market share, because they would be able to sell copies of only the older, twice-a-day version. In a court filing in October, Actavis argued that an injunction would be "unprecedented and extraordinary" and would cause the company "great financial harm, including unnecessary manufacturing and marketing costs." □

Mutts



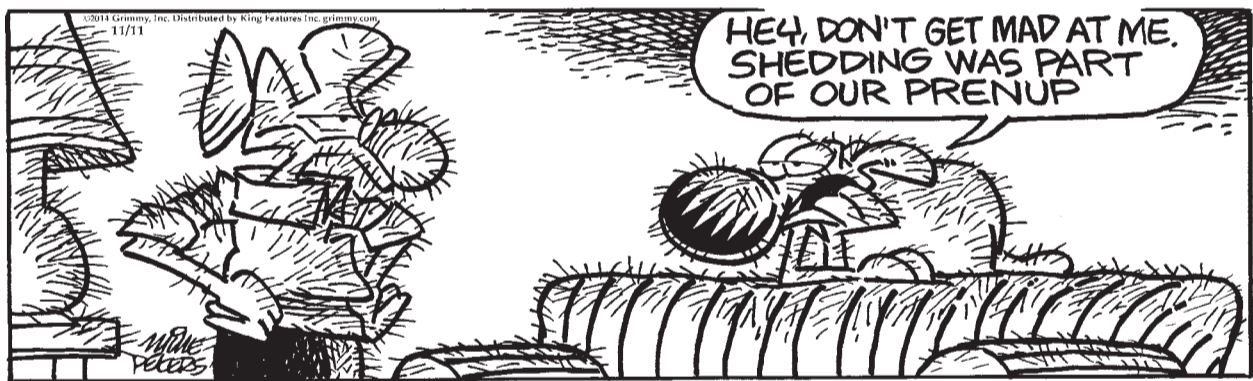
6 Chix



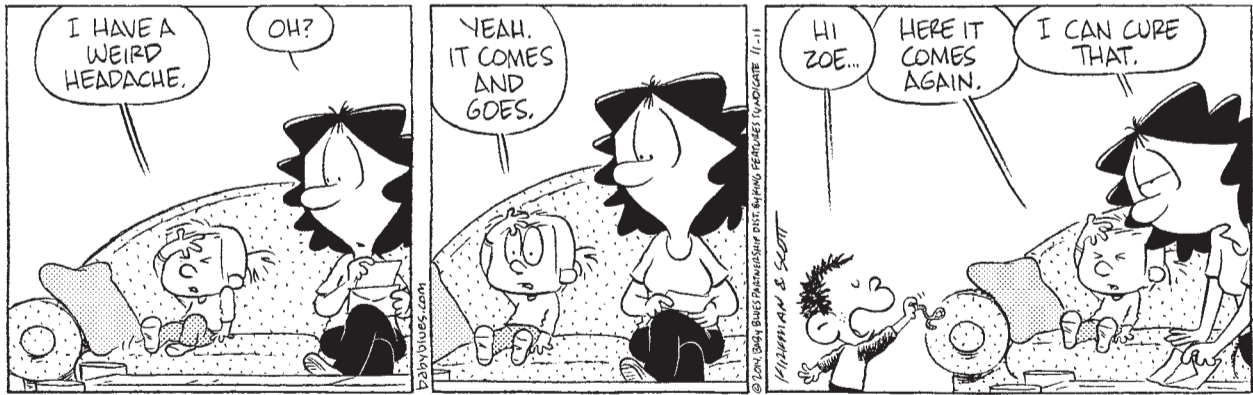
Blondie



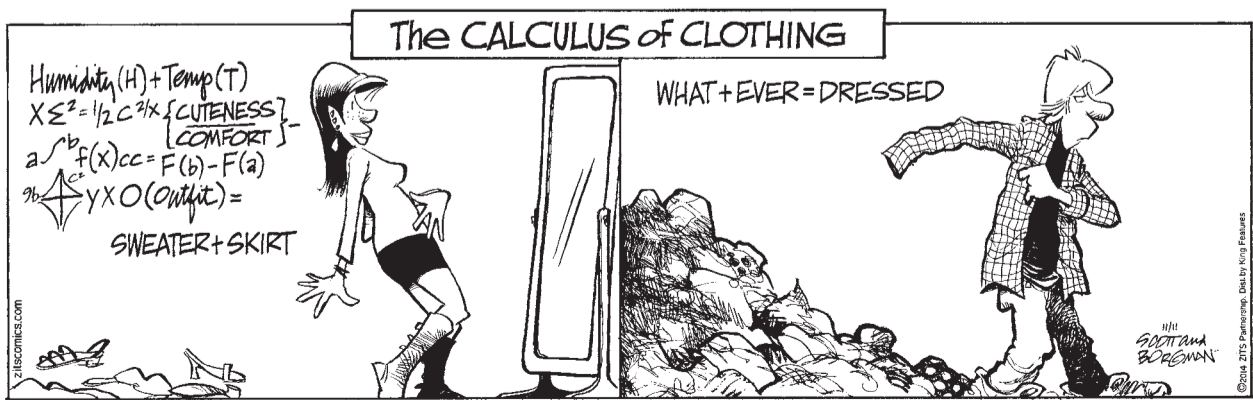
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4			8		5	3	
6	3	1	5				2	8
8							1	
							6	
2				4				5
	1							
	7							6
4	2				8	1	9	7
	5	3		1			4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	8	7	3	9	2	5	4	6
9	6	3	8	5	4	2	1	7
4	2	5	7	6	1	8	9	3
5	4	8	2	7	9	6	3	1
7	1	6	5	4	3	9	2	8
3	9	2	6	1	8	4	7	5
8	7	4	1	2	5	3	6	9
6	3	9	4	8	7	1	5	2
2	5	1	9	3	6	7	8	4

ACROSS

- 1 Fido's feet
- 5 Mates for does
- 10 Consequently
- 14 Finished; done
- 15 Temple scroll
- 16 Uttered
- 17 \_\_\_ down; reclines
- 18 Poorly built
- 20 Peculiar
- 21 Auction offers
- 22 Small outbuildings
- 23 Eccentric
- 25 TV's "Murder, \_\_\_ Wrote"
- 26 Minor fault
- 28 Wiggle room
- 31 Baby hooter
- 32 Opera solos
- 34 In the \_\_\_; like a sure thing
- 36 Exclusively
- 37 Salesman's pitch
- 38 German mister
- 39 Gypsy Rose \_\_\_
- 40 Use up
- 41 "Aida" composer Giuseppe \_\_\_
- 42 Plays
- 44 Publisher William Randolph \_\_\_
- 45 Tilt for \_\_\_
- 46 Vital artery
- 47 Thread holder
- 50 Baby's bed
- 51 2000 pounds
- 54 Bicycle part
- 57 Donate
- 58 Over the hill
- 59 Train station
- 60 Wordsworth or Longfellow
- 61 Clutter
- 62 One-dish meals
- 63 Jillian & Curry

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
		23	24					25						
26	27							28			29	30		
31						32	33				34		35	
36						37					38			
39					40						41			
	42		43						44					
								45			46			
47	48	49						50				51	52	53
54						55	56					57		
58						59						60		
61						62						63		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/11/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	T	I	R		S	L	A	M		J	A	V	A
S	P	A	D	E		P	E	R	U		A	G	E	D
K	I	L	L	S		R	E	E	F		N	E	R	D
S	T	E	E	P	L	E	S		F	R	I	N	G	E
						R	I	L	E		F	L	A	T
S	I	E	S	T	A		D	I	E	G	O			
L	O	X		E	M	B	E	R		E	R	O	D	E
O	W	E	D		A	I	L	E	D		S	A	U	L
B	A	S	I	L		N	A	D	I	R		R	P	M
						S	O	G	G		V	E	R	S
V	E	N	T	U	R	E		F	A	M	E			
O	V	E	R	D	O		M	O	N	O	C	L	E	S
C	A	V	E			W	H	O	A		R	A	I	T
A	D	E	S			L	O	L	L		S	L	A	T
L	E	S	S			S	E	E	S		E	L	M	E

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DOWN

- 1 Sport played on horseback
- 2 Enthusiastic
- 3 Roundup, for one
- 4 Last year's jrs.
- 5 Bowler's delight
- 6 Yes-man
- 7 Weapons
- 8 Nitrogen or hydrogen
- 9 "Be quiet!"
- 10 Shun
- 11 Gather leaves
- 12 Coat with a thin layer of gold
- 13 Lofty poems
- 19 Campfire residue
- 21 Leave suddenly
- 24 Follow orders
- 25 Close tightly
- 26 Hoodwink
- 27 Possessed
- 28 Was dishonest
- 29 Unusual occurrence
- 30 Linear measures
- 32 Ridicules
- 33 \_\_\_ Tin Tin; dog of films and TV
- 35 Unyielding courage
- 37 Argument
- 38 Warmth
- 40 Tiny
- 41 Part of speech
- 43 Not in agreement
- 44 Lifts with effort
- 46 Cupid's projectile
- 47 Pillow cover
- 48 Book leaf
- 49 Singles
- 50 Cloak
- 52 Microwave, e.g.
- 53 Tennis court dividers
- 55 Ames & Begley
- 56 Wager
- 57 Transcript abbr.

## US Poll:

# Half of Republicans back limits on carbon

DINA CAPPIELLO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

When Republicans take control of Congress next month, top on their agenda will be undoing environmental regulations they claim will harm the U.S. economy, chief among them President Barack Obama's plans to limit heat-trapping carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants.

The results of a new poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and Yale University show their priorities may be misplaced.

Six in 10 Americans, including half of all Republicans, said they support regulation of carbon dioxide pollution, although they weren't asked how. Nearly half of Republicans said the U.S. should lead the global fight to curb climate change, even if it means taking action when other countries do not. And majorities across party lines said environmental protections "improve economic growth and provide new jobs" in the long run, a popular Obama administration talking point.

The picture of Republicans that emerges from the poll runs counter to the monolithic view of Republicans in Washington as a global warming-doubting, anti-environmental regulation



The coal-fired Plant Scherer is photographed in Juliette, Ga. Six in 10 Americans, including half of all Republicans, said they support regulation of carbon dioxide pollution, according to a new poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and Yale University released Friday, Dec. 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/John Amis)

party keen on attacking Obama's environmental plans. And the results come as the Obama administration continues to forge ahead on its own with aggressive plans on climate change, even if it means going head-to-head with a Republican-controlled Congress that could derail the administration's environmental legacy.

"The American people have made it clear they know climate change is real, and that we can protect the planet and grow the economy at the same time," Frank Benenati, a

White House spokesman, said after reviewing the poll results. "Climate deniers in Congress and those who would try to block efforts to address the climate challenge would do well to listen." Still, climate change itself ranked near the bottom of environmental problems tested in the poll. "Global warming was second to last among environ-

mental issues. That is all you need to know," said Mike McKenna, a Republican pollster and consultant. In recent weeks and months, the White House has announced a deal with China to curb the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming and pledged \$3 billion to a fund that helps poor countries prepare for climate change. □

## DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dec. 13 Dr. Dassen  
Dec. 14 Dr. G. Croes

## EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

## PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Paradera Tel: 588-6638  
San Nicolas: Aloe Tel: 584-4606

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

## CRUISESHIP

December 13

Freewinds

December 14

Seabourn Legend

Aruba Airport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

## FOUNDATION

### FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440

Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,  
Anonymity guaranteed

## FUNDACION

### Anti-Droga

### Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

## FUNDACION

### Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

### Diabetic Foundation

### Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

### Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

### Foundation Amor

### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

### Women in Difficulties

### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

### Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Concierge Realty



## Marriott Aruba Surf Club

### PLATINUM Season

Oceanview \$16k  
Oceanside \$17500  
Oceanfront \$27,500  
3 BEDRM OV \$27k  
Plat. Plus Holiday 51 OV  
\$46k  
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV \$49k

### GOLD Season

Oceanside \$9900  
Oceanview \$9k  
Oceanfront \$14,500k  
3 BEDRM OV \$17k

## Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season  
2B Ocean view \$9k  
2B Oceanfront \$14500  
1B Oceanfront \$8500

### PLATINUM Season

2B oceanview \$18500  
2B Oceanfront \$29k  
1B Oceanview \$11500  
\*\*Destination points  
available between \$6.5 and  
\$7.5 per point.

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# Classifieds

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE

### RENAISSANCE (one bedroom)

Week	room	price
48/49	551	\$5500
30	515	\$4600
42	103	\$6000
15	327	\$6500
37/38	548	\$5750
19	547	\$5000

### LA CABANA

Week 44 room 334B \$1.850

### PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

Week 29 room 129, 2 bedroom  
\$5.500

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200  
vr.realty@mac.com

202887

3 Bridge players needed  
play 2 x per week  
my place - your place  
Call Rod 583-0744  
retired judge

211046

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## Study: 270,000 tons of plastic floating in oceans

**AUDREY McAVOY**  
**Associated Press**

**HONOLULU (AP)** — A new study estimates nearly 270,000 tons of plastic is floating in the world's oceans. That's enough to fill more than 38,500 garbage trucks.

The plastic is broken up into more than 5 trillion pieces, said the study published Wednesday in the scientific journal PLOS ONE.

The paper is the latest in a nascent field where scientists are trying to better understand how much of the synthetic material is entering the oceans and how it's affecting fish, sea-birds and the larger marine ecosystem.

The study's lead author is Markus Eriksen of the 5 Gyres Institute, an organization that aims to reduce plastic in the oceans.

To gather data, researchers dragged a fine mesh net at the sea surface to gather small pieces. Observers on boats counted



This file 2008 photo provided by NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center shows debris in Hanauma Bay, Hawaii.

**Associated Press**

larger items. They used computer models to calculate estimates for tracts of ocean not surveyed.

The study only measured plastic floating at the surface. Plastic on the ocean floor wasn't included.

Bits greater than about 8

inches (20 centimeters) accounted for three-quarters of the plastic that the research estimated is in

the ocean.

Kara Lavender Law of the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, who wasn't involved in the study, said the researchers gathered data in areas where scientists currently don't have measurements for floating plastic debris, including the Indian Ocean, the Southern Ocean near Antarctica and the South Atlantic.

In addition, the study's estimate for tiny plastic bits less than one-fifth of an inch — about 35,540 tons — is comparable to an earlier study by researchers in Spain who used different methodology, Law said. That study estimated there was 7,000 to 35,000 tons of plastics this size floating in the ocean.

It's encouraging that two different approaches came up with such similar

answers, given how difficult it is to measure plastic in the ocean, she said.

Studying the amount of plastic in the ocean will help scientists understand how the material will affect the environment and potentially the food chain. For example, Law said, we might eat tuna that has ingested another fish that has eaten plastic that has in turn eaten another fish with plastic. These plastics could potentially have toxic chemicals.

"Am I being poisoned by eating the fish on my plate?" she asked. "We have very little knowledge of the chain of events that could lead to that. But it's a plausible scenario that plastic ingested at lower levels of the food web could have consequences at higher levels of the food chain." □

## Mystery of where Earth's water came from deepens

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The mystery of where Earth's water came from got murkier Wednesday when some astronomers essentially eliminated one of the chief suspects: comets.

Over the past few months, the European Space Agency's Rosetta space probe closely examined the type of comet that some scientists theorized could have brought water to our planet 4 billion years ago. It found water, but the wrong kind. It was too heavy. One of the first scientific studies from the Rosetta mission found that the comet's water contains more of a hydrogen isotope called deuterium than water on Earth does.

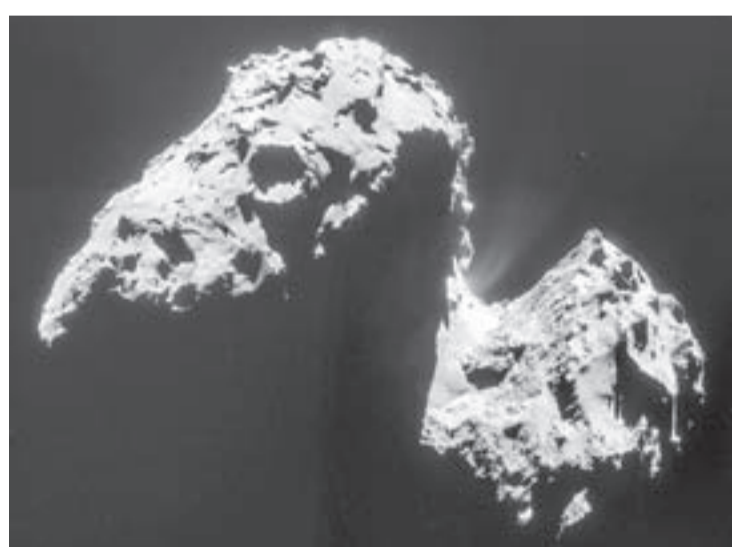
"The question is who brought this water: Was it

comets or was it something else?" asked Kathrin Altwegg of the University of Bern in Switzerland, lead author of a study published in the journal Science.

Something else, probably asteroids, Altwegg concluded. But others disagree. Many scientists have long believed that Earth had water when it first formed, but that it boiled off, so that the water on the planet now had to have come from an outside source.

The findings from Rosetta's mission to the duck-shaped comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko complicate not just the question of the origin of Earth's water but our understanding of comets.

Until now, scientists pretty much sorted comets into two types: near and far. The near ones, sometimes



The image comprised of four images taken with the navigation camera on Rosetta and released by the European Space Agency ESA on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014 shows comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko on Nov. 17, 2014 from a distance of 42 km (26 miles) from the center of the comet.

**Associated Press**

called the Jupiter family, originally come from the Kuiper Belt outside Neptune and Pluto. The far ones hail from the Oort Cloud, which is much farther out.

In 1986, a spacecraft came within about 400 miles (640 kilometers) of Halley's comet, an Oort Cloud comet, and analyzed its water. It proved to be heavier than

Earth's water. But three years ago, scientists examined the water in a Kuiper Belt comet, Hartley 2, and it was a perfect match for Earth's water, so the comet theory was back, stronger than ever, Altwegg said.

The comet visited by Rosetta is a Kuiper Belt comet, but its water was even heavier than Halley's, Altwegg said. That shows that Kuiper Belt comets aren't as uniform as thought, and it once again complicates the issue of Earth's water.

"That probably rules out Kuiper Belt comets from bringing water to Earth," she said.

University of Maryland astronomer Michael A'Hearn, who wasn't part of the research, called the results startling but said they don't eliminate comets altogether. □

# Aretha serenades Swift as Billboard honors both

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It'll be hard for Taylor Swift to top this as a birthday gift: A birthday serenade from none other than the Queen of Soul.

Aretha Franklin arguably had the best performance of the afternoon as the legend gave an impromptu performance of "Happy Birthday" to Taylor Swift, Billboard's new "Woman of the Year," at their annual Women in Music event on Friday. Swift swooned as Franklin sang and the pair embraced afterward and she was given a birthday cake.

Technically Swift doesn't turn 25 until Saturday but she was able to celebrate early with the honor; she was one of several women celebrated at the event, which featured some of the biggest names in music, including a surprise appearance by Beyoncé. Billboard's Women in Music awards honors the top women in the industry, from executives to artists like Franklin, who received the appropriately named "Icon" award.

Swift was named the top woman in music after her record-breaking year, in which her "1989" album debuted at No. 1 and sold more than 1 million copies — her third straight album to accomplish such a feat, setting a record. She also had chart-toppers with "Shake It Off" and "Blank Space" and recently saw the former song get nominated for record of the year at the Grammys. Swift used her acceptance speech to underscore her decision this fall to remove all her music from the streaming site Spotify on the grounds that it doesn't equitably reimburse artists for the use of its material.

"I really believe we in the music industry can work together to find a way to

bond technology with integrity and just really hope we can teach the younger generation the value of investment in music rather than the ephemeral consumption of it," Swift said. Most of the other honorees spoke about the honor in a more personal na-



**Aretha Franklin attends the 2014 Billboard Women in Music luncheon at Cipriani Wall Street on Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in New York.**

Associated Press

ture. Idina Menzel, whose voice powered the "Frozen" soundtrack into the top-selling album of the year, spoke about reaching the apex of her career after some lean years, despite early success on Broadway.

"I'm 43 and I'm a breakthrough artist," she said of getting the "Breakthrough Artist of the Year" award. Ariana Grande's brother, "Big Brother" contestant Frankie, gave his sister the "Rising Star" award in an emotional tribute.

"This is completely crazy and I'm going to try not to cry," she said as she accepted it.

Iggy Azalea did choke up when she received the "Chart Topper" award; the "Fancy" rapper thanked the women executives who pushed her career forward when she thought it was dead. Charli XCX received the "Hitmaker" award; Jessie J was named "Powerhouse"; and Hayley Williams of Paramore was crowned "Trailblazer."



**In this Dec. 10, 2014 photo, Mutsuhiro Takeuchi, a nationalist-leaning educator and a priest in the traditional Shinto religion, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Tokyo.**

Associated Press

## 'Unbroken' strikes a nerve in Japan over WWII past

YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — Angelina Jolie's new movie "Unbroken" has not been released in Japan yet, but it has already struck a nerve in a country still wrestling over its wartime past.

The buzz on social networks and in online chatter is decidedly negative over the film, which depicts a U.S. Olympic runner who endures torture at a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp during World War II.

Some people are calling for a boycott of the movie, although there is no release date in Japan yet. It hits theaters in the U.S. on Dec. 25. Others want the ban extended to Jolie, the director — unusual in a nation enamored with Hollywood, and especially Jolie and her husband Brad Pitt, who have reputations as Japan lovers. The movie follows the real-life story of Louis Zamperini as told in a 2010 book by Laura Hillenbrand. The book has not been translated into Japanese, but online trailers have provoked outrage. Zamperini, played by Jack O'Connell, survived in a raft for 47 days with two other crewmen after their B-24 bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, only to be captured by the Japanese and sent to a prisoner-

of-war camp.

Especially provocative is a passage in the book that accuses the Japanese of engaging in cannibalism of POWs. It is not clear how much of that will be in the movie, but in Japan that is too much for some.

"There was absolutely no cannibalism," said Mutsuhiro Takeuchi, a nationalist-leaning educator and a priest in the traditional Shinto religion. "That is not our custom."

Takeuchi acknowledged Jolie is free to make whatever movie she wants, stressing that Shinto believes in forgive-and-forget.

But he urged Jolie to study history, saying executed war criminals were charged with political crimes, not torture.

"Even Japanese don't know their own history so misunderstandings arise," said Takeuchi, who heads his research organization, the Japan Culture Intelligence Association.

Hollywood films that touch on sensitive topics for the Japanese have had a troubled history here.

Theaters canceled screenings of the Oscar-winning 2009 documentary "The Cove" about the bloody dolphin hunts in the Japanese town of Taiji after the distributor was deluged with

threats from people who said the movie denigrated the "culture" of eating dolphins, although most Japanese have never eaten dolphin or whale meat.

Roland Kelts, a journalist and expert on Japanese culture, called the outburst over "Unbroken," like the frenzy over "The Cove," "banal and predictable."

"None of them have even seen the film, and while it is based on one man's story, it's a feature, not a documentary. There are plenty of movies that depict the brutality and inhumanity of war," he said.

Jolie said recently on a promotion tour in Australia that she wanted to depict a human story, one that gives hope, noting that war "brings out the extremes," both the good and the bad, in people.

The release of "Unbroken" comes at a time some in Japan are downplaying the country's colonization of its Asian neighbors and the aggressive acts carried out by the Imperial Army during World War II.

For example, some politicians dispute the role of Japanese soldiers in the Rape of Nanjing, which began in 1937, in which an estimated 300,000 Chinese were killed. They say that is a vast over count.

# Weather porn? Storms take over evening news

**DAVID BAUDER**

**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The correspondent most frequently seen on either ABC, CBS or NBC's evening newscasts this year doesn't work out of the White House or some overseas trouble zone. It's Ginger Zee, ABC's meteorologist.

Weather is a big element of local news, but a story about the elements once had to be extraordinary to warrant time on a national newscast. Now it's routine, and not everyone considers that a change for the better.

Over the past five years, the newscasts have essentially doubled the amount of time spent on weather and natural disaster stories. The time has more than quadrupled since the early 1990s, said news consultant Andrew Tyndall, who monitors the content of the broadcasts.

ABC's "World News Tonight" leads the way, particularly since David Muir took over as anchor in September.

"The weather is part of the national conversation and it is part of the news cycle," said Almin Karamehmedovic, executive producer of "World News Tonight."

"Increasingly, we see it that way. I'm sure the weather is the same as it was 10 years ago, but we see much more of it."



**A sign warning of floods stands at the entrance to Silverado Canyon due to the potential for mud slides at a recent burn area Friday, Dec. 12, 2014 in Silverado Canyon, Calif. Silverado Canyon is under a evacuation order due to heavy rains.**

**Associated Press**

ABC led its Wednesday newscast with the storm that lashed the Northeast with rain and snow, and predictions of a big storm out West. NBC's "Nightly News" led with fallout from the Senate torture report, and the "CBS Evening

News" started with poll results on racial attitudes toward law enforcement.

With people following news all day, ABC wants to catch what people are most immediately talking about,

During Muir's first three months, ABC spent 150 minutes on weather stories. NBC did 106 minutes and CBS had 69 minutes, Tyndall said. ABC this summer hired Rob Marciano as a

Capus said he'd rather spend time on more substantial, less flashy, stories. Still, CBS led its Thursday newscast with the West Coast storm, while ABC opened with the CIA's response to torture allegations.

Smartphones and social media have made video of dramatic weather, crashing waves and whiteouts of snow more readily available than a decade ago. Typhoon Hagupit in the Philippines wasn't as bad as anticipated and struck far from an American audience last weekend, but ABC and CBS both ran storm video Monday evening. The images were arresting. The concern is that video makes weather stories catnip to producers, irresistible even with limited news value, said Patrick Burke, "Nightly News" executive producer.

Others use a more blunt term: weather porn. The extra time spent on these stories can't be explained by an increased frequency of or interest in bad weather, and they're rarely used in context of a discussion about climate change, Tyndall said. □



**In this Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014 file photo, director Ridley Scott poses during a photocall for his film "Exodus: Gods and Kings" in Paris.**

**Associated Press**

**SANDY COHEN**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Ridley Scott did not originally want to make "Exodus: Gods and Kings."

"It's biblical, and I was afraid of all those associations," the 77-year-old filmmaker said.

The script convinced him, with its story of brothers divided by ethnic allegiances. Scott said he was

drawn to the timely, and sadly timeless, theme of war over religion.

"I don't think you can separate from what's happening today with what was happening then," he said. "It's still fundamentally the same evolution: the same things going wrong, the same lack of understanding, the same refusal to abide peacefully together and to be separated by —

Karamehmedovic said. By that point, the torture report had been out more than 24 hours. Muir's fast-paced broadcast has seen some success, winning the November ratings sweeps among young viewers for the first time in 18 years.

second meteorologist.

"If you're trying to be relevant to a local audience, (weather is) as relevant as it gets," said Steve Capus, executive producer of the "CBS Evening News." "But we're not broadcasting to one part of the country."

## Ridley Scott talks religious casting, themes

sometimes by the same religion, which is happening now."

Christian Bale is Moses and Joel Edgerton is Ramses in the biblical epic, opening Friday. Raised as brothers, the men find themselves on opposite sides as Moses fights to liberate the Israelites long enslaved by the Egyptian pharaoh.

Controversy erupted over Scott's casting of white actors to play ancient Egyptians. The filmmaker mostly blows off the criticism, blaming Hollywood's financing model. It takes big-name actors to make big-budget movies, he said.

"It's always art against economics," he said. "As soon as you're at the higher levels of budgeting,

you've got to get the film made and the only way to support the film is to have actors who can support the budget."

The stars of "Exodus" said they were eager to work with the veteran director, who's known for using multiple cameras and little rehearsal time.

That approach suited Bale, who said he was less self-conscious with so many cameras than he would have been with just one.

"When there's multiples, they all disappear," Bale said. "There's so many different angles, and that's wonderful, because you don't get bored with the scene and you don't get tired of it."

Scott skips rehearsals and films from various angles to

keep the actors fresh.

"If they're sitting around for hours, they lose it," he said. Edgerton said he was impressed by the director's fast pace and relaxed demeanor: "It seems like he gets kind of antsy and nervous when it's just a two-header without a hundred horses in the background." The actor also appreciated that Scott sketched out his approach to various scenes. A quick doodle on a napkin could make things clear, he said.

Scott's background is in fine art. He trained as a painter and worked in graphic design before making commercials, then transitioning to feature film. He made his first movie at age 40, but recently rediscovered the joy of painting. □

## Recovery at Last?



PAUL KRUGMAN

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Last week we got an actually good employment report - arguably the first truly good report in a long time. The U.S. economy added well over 300,000 jobs; wages, which have been stagnant for far too long, picked up a bit. Other indicators, like the rate at which workers are quitting (a sign that they expect to find new jobs), continue to improve. We're still nowhere near full employment, but getting there no longer seems like an impossible dream.

And there are some important lessons from this belated good news. It doesn't vindicate policies that permitted seven years and counting of depressed incomes and employment. But it does put the lie to some of the nonsense you hear about why the economy has lagged.

Let's talk first about reasons not to celebrate.

Things are finally looking better for American workers, but this improvement comes after years of suffering, with long-term unemployment in particular lingering at levels not seen since the 1930s. Millions of families lost their homes, their savings, or both. Many young Americans graduated into a labor market that didn't want their skills, and will never get back onto the career tracks they should have had.

And the long slump hasn't just scared families; it has done immense damage to our long-run prospects. Estimates of the economy's potential - the amount it can produce if and when it finally reaches full employment - have been steadily marked down in recent years, and many researchers now believe that the slump itself damaged future potential.

So it has been a terrible seven years, and even a string of good job reports won't undo the damage. Why was it so bad?

You often hear claims, sometimes from pundits who should know better, that nobody predicted a sluggish recovery, and that this proves that mainstream macroeconomics is all wrong. The truth is that many economists, myself included, predicted a slow recovery from the very beginning. Why?

The answer, in brief, is that there are recessions and then there are recessions. Some recessions are deliberately engineered to cool off an overheated, inflating economy. For example, the Fed

caused the 1981-82 recession with tight-money policies that temporarily sent interest rates to almost 20 percent. And ending that recession was easy: Once the Fed decided that we had suffered enough, it relented, interest rates tumbled, and it was morning in America.

But "postmodern" recessions, like the downturns of 2001 and 2007-09, reflect bursting bubbles rather than tight money, and they're hard to end; even if the Fed cuts interest rates all the way to zero, it may find itself pushing on a string, unable to have much of a positive effect. As a result, you don't expect to see V-shaped recoveries like 1982-84 - and sure enough, we didn't.

This doesn't mean that we were fated to experience a seven-year slump. We could have had a much faster recovery if the U.S. government had ramped up public investment and put more money in the hands of families likely to spend it. But the Obama stimulus was much too small and short-lived - as many of us warned, in advance, it would be - and since 2010 what we have actually seen, thanks to scorched-earth Republican opposition on all fronts, are unprecedented cutbacks in government spending, especially investment, and in government employment.

OK, at this point I'm sure many readers are thinking that they've been hearing a very different story about what went wrong - the conservative story that attributes the sluggish recovery to the terrible, horrible, no-good attitude of the Obama administration. The president, we're told, scared businesspeople by talking about "fat cats" on Wall Street and generally looking at them funny. Also, Obamacare has killed jobs, right?

Which is where the new job numbers come in. At this point we have enough data points to compare the job recovery under President Barack Obama with the job recovery under former President George W. Bush, who also presided over a postmodern recession but certainly never insulted fat cats. And by any measure you might choose - but especially if you compare rates of job creation in the private sector - the Obama recovery has been stronger and faster. Oh, and its pace has picked up over the past year, as health reform has gone fully into effect.

Just to be clear, I'm not calling the Obama-era economy a success story. We needed faster job growth this time around than under Bush, because the recession was deeper, and unemployment stayed far too high for far too long. But we can now say with confidence that the recovery's weakness had nothing to do with Obama's (falsely) alleged anti-business slant. What it reflected, instead, was the damage done by government paralysis - paralysis that has, alas, richly rewarded the very politicians who caused it. □



## A New Age of Activism



CHARLES M. BLOW

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There seems to be a new age of activism rising. From Occupy Wall Street, to the "Stop Watching Us" march against government surveillance, to the Moral Monday protests, to the People's Climate March, to the recent nationwide protests over the killings of men and boys of color by police, there is obviously a discontent in this country that is pouring into the streets.

And yet much of it confounds and frustrates existing concepts of what movements should look like. Much does not fit neatly into the confines of conventional politics or the structures of traditional power.

It's often diffuse. It's often organic and largely leaderless. It's often about a primary event but also myriad secondary ones. It is, in a way, a social network approach to social justice, not so much captain-orchestrated as crowd-sourced, people sharing, following and liking their way to consensus and collective consciousness.

If there is a unifying theme, it is at least in part that more people are frustrated, aching for a better America and a better world, waking to the reality of the incredible fragility of our freedoms, our democracy and our planet. It is a chafing at grinding political

intransigence and growing political corporatism. It is a rejection of the obscenity of economic inequality. And it is a collective expression of moral outrage over systemic bias.

The suspicion of bias, in particular, is what the most recent protests have been about. They are about a most basic question concerning the nature of humanity itself: If we are all created equal, shouldn't we all be treated equally? Anything less is an affront to our ideals.

Bias in the system often feels like fog in the morning: enveloping, amorphous and immeasurable. But individual cases, like the recent ones, hit us as discrete and concrete, about particular unarmed black men killed by particular policemen - although those particular policemen are representative of structures of power. These cases make easy focal points for rallying cries, and force us to ask tough questions about the very nature of policing, force and justice:

When is the line crossed from protecting and serving to occupying and suppressing? When do officers stop seeing their role as working for and with a community and start seeing that role as working against and in spite of it? If bias exists in society at large, how do we keep it out of, or at least mitigate the effect of it on, every level of the criminal justice system, from police interactions to prison sentences?

There is a thin line between high-pressure policing and oppressive policing. Heavy hands leave bruised spirits, and occasionally buried bodies.

It cannot be said often enough that most police officers are not bad actors, but neither are most citizens. Yet prejudice is a societal poison; each of us is in danger of ingesting it, and many of us do. We are constantly making

judgments, but most of us are not wearing a holster with a gun. That is when the ante is upped about the nature and quality of those judgments: Did they unfairly weigh against any particular groups? How much force was used and how quickly?

This is why the people are in the streets. There are too many nagging questions, not enough satisfying answers. The people want their pain and anger registered. But in a way, this is the part that can drive longtime activists to distraction: that this kind of people power doesn't neatly translate into political power. Why not follow the recent examples of activists for gay rights and immigrant rights, who pressured politicians and worked through the political and judicial systems to achieve specific policy objectives?

But maybe in this moment the exhaling of pain must come before the shaping of policy.

Indeed some activists have already moved beyond chants for "change" and begun to develop sophisticated answers to the retort, "change what?". The trick is to redirect the passions before they dissipate, to maintain momentum when the media attention fades, and to amplify raised voices with votes cast.

I believe - because the optimist in me must - that votes will soon, somehow, follow the passion, that people will come to see marching not as a substitute for voting but a supplement to it, that more people will work to effect change inside the system as well as outside it.

One of the people's greatest strengths in a democracy is the flexing of political muscle and the exercising of political power, through ballots and boot leather. This new activism has the potential to create a new political reality. And it will. Eventually. I hope. □

# Buffalo Bills Cheerleaders' Fight for Wages and Respect

**MICHAEL POWELL**

© 2014 New York Times

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** - Alyssa cannot recall the precise moment she realized her dream gig as a Buffalo Bills cheerleader had turned into a nightmare. Each week held so many indignities. Supervisors ordered the

ations, and for hundreds of hours of work and practices, Alyssa and her fellow cheerleaders on the Buffalo Bills received not a penny of wages, not from the subcontractor and certainly not from the Buffalo Bills, a team that each year makes revenue in excess of \$200 million.

Now the league claims credit for its bravery in confronting the scourge of wrecked brains. And that brings us back to cheerleaders. Alyssa, joined by her friend and fellow cheerleader Maria, talked of their work in downtown Buffalo, in the office of their lawyer, Sean

"People really thought we had it good, that we were paid well and had this luxurious lifestyle," she said. She narrowed her eyes and shook her head. "Seriously? I ended up feeling like a piece of meat." Buffalo is a handsome old city on Lake Erie. It suffered bloody wounds over

slide show. They saw screen shots of their Facebook pages, obtained without their permission. "You're thinking, oh my God, this is so embarrassing," she said. "And they never asked you about any of this." We will monitor everything you do, the women were told.

The team's contractor handed the women a contract and a personnel code, and told them to sign on the spot. The team dictated everything from the color of their hair to how they handled their menstrual cycle.

The contractor required they visit a sponsor who was a plastic surgeon. He offered a small discount if they opted for breast augmentation and other services. Larger breasts, however, were not a condition of nonpaid employment.

"If you complained, you were told: 'This is a privilege. Deal with it!'" Alyssa recalled.

Many pro football clubs maintain cheerleading teams, although times are changing, maybe a little bit. The Oakland Raiders recently settled a pay lawsuit with the Raiderettes. The team agreed to pay minimum wage and overtime, which counts as a come-to-Karl Marx moment for the NFL.

Other cheerleaders have sued the Cincinnati Bengals, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the New York Jets. The Buffalo Bills, however, stand out as the only one of these teams that insists cheerleaders kick and dance in heat and arctic cold for zip. Cash-flow problems have nothing to do with it. Terry and Kim Pegula, who made their fortune in fracking, recently purchased the Bills for \$1.4 billion. That is the highest price yet paid for a league franchise.

The Pegulas are big donors to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. New York state contributed tens of millions to rehabilitate the team's stadium before the Pegulas took over. Now there is pressure for the state to fork over for a new stadium. □



**Maria, left, and Alyssa, former Buffalo Bills, cheerleaders for the NFL's Buffalo Bills, who in keeping with NFL policy are providing only their first names, outside Ralph Wilson Stadium in Buffalo, N.Y. The two joined three other cheerleaders in filing a suit alleging flagrant violations by the Bills of state minimum wage laws.**

(Brendan Bannon/The New York Times)

cheerleaders, known as the Buffalo Bills, to warm up in a frigid, grubby stadium storeroom that smelled of gasoline. They demanded that cheerleaders pay \$650 for uniforms. They told the cheerleaders to do jumping jacks to see if flesh jiggled.

The Bills were required to attend a golf tournament for sponsors. The high rollers paid cash - "Flips for Tips" - to watch bikini-clad cheerleaders do back flips. Afterward, the men placed bids on which women would ride around in their golf carts.

A not-incidental detail: The carts had no extra seats. Women clung to the back or, much more to the point, were invited to sit in the men's laps.

For these and more humili-

The National Football League, that \$10 billion "nonprofit" business, is the occasionally repulsive gift that keeps on giving. An all-American empire, the NFL is structured with various and many principalities and emirates, and fixers who cushion the leadership from the unsightly details of league business as usual.

So owners and lobbyists handle the shakedown of cities for publicly funded stadiums; Commissioner Roger Goodell alights when a grip and grin is needed to seal the deal. Lawyers and doctors on the league's pad handled the league's war against payouts for concussions, which began with denial and segued into discredit, until lots of not-so-hot publicity made that unbearable.

Cooney. Petite and blond, an experienced dancer and a lifelong Bills fan, Alyssa worked a year as a Jill.

In keeping with the NFL's coyly kittenish policy which requires that cheerleaders offer only their first name, and because her lawsuit has angered many in this Bills town, she declined to give her surname or to use it in the lawsuit. Not in keeping with NFL policy, Alyssa, Maria and three other cheerleaders sued the Bills in May, alleging flagrant violations of state minimum wage laws.

The most they could hope for as cheerleaders, they said, were a few small tips and appearance fees here and there. Alyssa says she made \$420 for more than 800 hours of work; Maria made \$105.

the past decades, from population loss to abandonment, before it turned a corner of late. Nothing about local pride is phony. One hundred and fifty women paid \$50 each to try out as a cheerleader, and viewed it as honor and a thrill.

(Some other Bills, particularly alumnae, remain very angry at Alyssa, Maria and the other three cheerleaders for bringing their lawsuit.)

"I grew up in Buffalo, and was captain of the cheerleading team in high school," said Maria, who is an accountant. "I busted my butt to make the Bills. To make it! What a thrill."

Alyssa recalled that team managers herded the winning cheerleaders into a darkened room to watch a